SATURDAY
June 21, 2025

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VIOLENCE IN MANIPUR

Two districts on edge again following attack

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'NEED MORE TIME'

NASA puts off Sunday launch of Axiom-4 mission

NEWS » PAGE 12

AIR INDIA CRASH

8 days on, 210 bodies handed over to kin

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CRISIS IN DHUBRI

The beef that sowed seeds of mistrust

A Muslim-majority district on edge

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 9

BRIGHT START

Gill and Jaiswal put India in command

SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

MLA's audio clip flags graft in house allotments

BENGALURU
An audio clip, allegedly featuring a conversation between Congress MLA B.R. Patil and one Sarfaraz about corruption in distribution of houses has caused embarrassment to the ruling Congress in the State. » Page 4

Epigraphical reference to Halley's Comet

MYSURU
The first Indian epigraphical reference to Halley's Comet has been discovered in a copper plate at the Srisailam Mallikarjunaswamy temple.

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PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 7

Will consider diplomacy if 'aggression' stops: Iran

Tehran backs continuation of talks if the aggressor is held accountable for its crimes, Iran Foreign Minister says after meeting his European counterparts in Geneva; Israel and Iran continue strikes

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

Tehran is ready to "consider diplomacy" again only once Israel's "aggression is stopped", Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said following talks in Geneva with his European counterparts on Iran's nuclear programme on Friday.

"Iran is ready to consider diplomacy once again and once the aggression is stopped and the aggressor is held accountable for the crimes committed... We support the continuation of discussion with Britain, France, Germany and the European Union and express our readiness to meet again in the near future," Mr. Araghchi told reporters following the talks at a Geneva hotel.

On the boil: Iranians gather for an anti-Israeli rally next to a replica of the Dome of the Rock mosque in Tehran on Friday. AFP

European powers on Friday urged Iran to continue diplomacy with the U.S. to find a solution in the stand-off over its nuclear programme as Israel keeps up its bombardment of the Islamic Republic.

"The good result today is that we leave the room with the impression that the Iranian side is ready to further discuss all the important questions," said German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul in a statement alongside his British, French and EU counterparts. "It is of great importance that the United States takes part in these negotiations and the solution," he added.

The statement read by all four top diplomats in their native languages after the talks expressed hope for further progress but did not make any mention of a breakthrough.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military said it carried out a fresh wave of attacks on Iran on Friday, targeting missile launchers in the southwest of the country.

At least 19 people were injured in the Israeli port city of Haifa as Iran fired a fresh barrage of missiles on Friday afternoon, authorities said.

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MORE REPORTS
» PAGE 14
"STILL NOT TOO LATE'
» PAGE 8

Iran allows Indian evacuation flights amid Israeli strikes

Home-bound: Indians being evacuated from Iran await their flight at Ashgabat, in Turkmenistan, on Friday. SPECIAL ARRAGEMENT

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Amid escalating conflict and continuing airstrikes by Israel, the Iranian government said on Friday that it had agreed to open its otherwise closed airspace to facilitate chartered flights carrying about 1,000 Indian nationals back to India.

The returning Indians are being brought back in three or more flights operated by an Iranian airline company and organised by the Indian Embassy in Tehran. The first of the flights, with 290 Indian students, flew from Mashhad, Iran, and landed at the Delhi airport on Friday night. Others were expected on Saturday and Sunday, Iran's Acting Ambassador said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Quota in housing: CM points the finger at Centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Even as the BJP continued to accuse the Congress government in Karnataka of giving religion-based reservation in its housing schemes, in violation of the Constitution, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah shot back at the saffron party pointing the finger at the Centre's own policies.

In a statement on Friday, Mr. Siddaramaiah defended the Cabinet's decision to hike quota for minorities from 10% to 15% in housing schemes, and said that it was based on the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities (2019), which directs Central and State implementing agencies to earmark 15% of targets for minorities wherever possible.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 4

Chariot run

Annual ritual: An air of revelry arrives in Puri, in Odisha, as the city prepares for the upcoming annual Rath Yatra for the Shree Jagannath Temple, on Friday. BISWARANJAN ROUT

HAL wins ISRO deal to build launch vehicles

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has bagged a Transfer of Technology (ToT) deal, valued at ₹511 crore, from the Indian Space Research Organisation, to build and operate Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs).

The SSLV is a three-stage vehicle to launch satellites that weigh less than 500 kg into the Lower Earth Orbit. The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) on Friday announced the HAL as the winning bidder among three shortlisted bidders. The deal will enable commercialisation of SSLV launches.

The SSLV is a three-stage vehicle to launch satellites that weigh less than 500 kg into the Lower Earth Orbit.

Apart from the HAL, which had applied independently, two other technically qualified bidders were shortlisted: Alpha Design Technologies Ltd., Bengaluru, leading a consortium with Agnikul Cosmos and Walchand Industries Ltd.; and Bharat Dynamics Ltd., Hyderabad, leading a consortium with Skyroot Aerospace, Keltron and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL),

Pawan Goenka, Chairman, IN-SPACe, announced the winner.

"The HAL will be giving ₹511 crore. The ToT phase will take two years and during these two years, the HAL will make at least two SSLV rockets with complete help and handholding from the ISRO and after two years, they will be on their own. So during the two years, they will draw all the technology and take it from there," Dr. Goenka said.

IN-SPACe said the bidding process involved a rigorous eligibility and evaluation framework. "The process, which continued for several months, culminated in the financial bid evaluation, where the HAL emerged as the highest bidder to acquire and operationalise SSLV technology," the IN-SPACe said.

"The launch vehicle system will require HAL to undergo rigorous handholding and training under ISRO at both ISRO's and the entity's facilities. This is aimed at realising the projected launch of two SSLVs from an Indian launch port," Rajeev Jyoti, Director, Technical Directorate, IN-SPACe, said.

To a question on who will take liability of a privately manufactured SSLV, Dr. Goenka said the state (Government of India) has the responsibility. "It is an international rule and not something India or the HAL or IN-SPACe can decide."

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GETTY IMAGES

Clive Lloyd with the 1975 World Cup trophy

Kapil Dev during his 175 n.o.

50 years later: how the World Cup launched cricket into mainstream consciousness

Five decades after the inaugural final, the tournament remains uniquely relevant. It has added layers to the game, changed its power structure and birthed superstars. Even in this age of the IPL and other T20 indulgences, the title Clive Lloyd's men first claimed is richly coveted

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

Just mention World Cup and instantaneously football chimes into memory. It is an organic mental reflex, as this quadrennial championship is perhaps the biggest draw in sport and on a par with the Olympics. But, equally, in those countries that were a part of the British Empire of the past, World Cup also means the one linked with cricket.

And today (June 21) marks a special moment in the cricket World Cup's journey, as exactly 50 years ago, the West Indies won the inaugural trophy after defeating Australia by 17 runs at Lord's. Much water has flowed down the Thames since then while the willow game's premier tournament continues to evolve.

Diverse notes

Cricket as a whole has found its diverse notes in the permanence of Tests, fluidity of ODIs and hyper-kinetic blitz of T20Is. Still, the conventional World Cup consisting of ODIs has maintained its unique appeal over five decades.

Back in 1975, Clive Lloyd's men, all muscle and mayhem, were the rockstars. It almost seemed pre-ordained that the stars from the Caribbean would seize the title. The same tournament, in the initial stages, also revealed a tentative approach from some teams.

The first World Cup fixture, which pitted host England against India, witnessed Sunil Gavaskar remaining unbeaten on 36 from 174 balls. It was just that the classical Test opener got trapped in his shell. Years later, in a 1987 World Cup match at Nagpur, Gavaskar hammered an unbeaten 103 off a mere 88 deliveries against a stunned New Zealand. It was the Little Master's life coming full circle in ODIs.

In the 1975 edition, cricket witnessed one of its greatest superstars make his presence felt. More than his batting, it was Vivian Richards the fielder who soared with his panache. He effected three run-outs in the final as the Aussies lost their breath. As the years rolled by, Richards, powerful shots and steely gaze, proved why he would always be seen as one of the greatest ever batters.

Sachin Tendulkar after the 2011 World Cup triumph

Back in 1975, Clive Lloyd's men, all muscle and mayhem, were the rockstars. It almost seemed pre-ordained that the stars from the Caribbean would seize the title

The all-rounder element was also reiterated by him, as his off-spin was a handy option within a team that often relied on its speed merchants. The West Indies made it two-in-a-row by claiming the title in 1979, Richards pulverising the England attack with his unbeaten 138.

Test matches, as a consequence of their five-day structure, often expose flaws and widen the gap between teams. ODIs, in contrast, shrink those spaces and allow even a David to dream about tripping a Goliath. Bowlers having a fixed number of overs often means batters are never subjected to the scrutiny that happens in a Test.

Tipping point

The tipping point was 1983, when Kapil's Devils turned the world upside down with their ecstatic victory over Lloyd's men in the summit clash at Lord's. A paltry 183 was defended, Kapil plucked an incredible catch to dismiss Richards, and for many, Balwinder Singh Sandhu castling Gordon Greenidge, while the opener shouldered arms, remains a nostalgic highlight.

It was also a championship which featured one of the greatest ODI knocks, an innings that has acquired a mythical allure. Kapil's 175 not out against Zimbabwe, and this after his team was reduced to 17 for five, has been resigned to being embalmed in a few newspaper pictures because the BBC crew inexplicably never covered this game!

When Kapil held aloft the World Cup at Lord's, it also launched a change in the power structure of cricket. It galvanised a new audience, expanded the market and soon commercial heft was vested in India, and to this day it remains that way. But beyond the financial pulls and pressures, Kapil's team stressed the value of quality all-rounders, and it is these players who gave him multiple winning options through the tournament.

Historically, the World Cup has added layers to cricket and the way we interpret it. In the 1987 edition in India and Pakistan, Allan Border used the championship as a crucible to forge a strong Aussie unit. He held the cup at Eden Gardens, and it marked a decisive shift in Australia's fortunes which remain in the ascendant even today.

Dean Jones propagated this adrenaline-thumping mix of frenetic batting, sharp fielding and some acerbic words at the opposition. It was a template that many players, including Virat Kohli, have adopted.

Cut to the 1992 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, and cricket found another dimension. New Zealand captain Martin Crowe promoted the concept of the pinch-hitter atop the order, through Mark Greatbatch, and was equally adept at slowing down things by employing spinner Dipak Patel when the opposition stepped out to bat.

It was a championship which Imran Khan wrested for Pakistan even as he talked up young Inzamam-ul-Haq as the next great batter. The 1992 edition also had an aesthetic twist. The players donned coloured clothing. By this time, the World Cup was also seen as this springboard for teams, perceived as the lesser ones, to stun the critics.

And 1996 was Sri Lanka's turn, as Arjuna Ranatunga's men upset the Aussies in the final at Lahore. In Aravinda de Silva, Sanath Jayasuriya and Muttiah Muralitharan, Ranatunga had three aces who could outwit any rival.

The Big Three forms

The next three championships (1999, 2003 and 2007) belonged to Australia, as Steve Waugh first and Ricky Ponting twice held the cup. Mathew Hayden, Adam Gilchrist and Glenn McGrath proved their mettle, and the Aussie conveyor belt brooked no opposition.

The tide turned when India won the 2011 edition at home, with Captain Cool M.S. Dhoni lending his finishing touch even if it was Yuvraj Singh who set the entire base for India's bull run in that event. That Sachin Tendulkar, who first turned out for India in 1989, rates this triumph as the finest in his career is an indicator of how relevant the World Cup still is, both for emotional recall and as a behemoth among sporting brands.

As the years went past, with the exception of England in 2019, it was normal service all over again, as Australia prevailed in 2015 and 2023, with the last being a heart-break for Rohit Sharma and Company at Ahmedabad. Through its continuing journey, the World Cup holds infinite value among players and followers. It is a truism that cannot be denied even in this age of the Indian Premier League and other T20 indulgences.

That a Kohli and a Rohit are perhaps stretching their ODI careers towards a hopeful swansong in the 2027 edition is further validation of the magnetic appeal of the World Cup

It also throws up fresh heroes like Ben Stokes and Travis Head, to name a few.

That a Kohli and a Rohit are perhaps stretching their ODI careers towards a hopeful swansong in the 2027 edition is further validation of the magnetic appeal of the World Cup. Even Javed Miandad dragged his career on until a tragic run-out in the 1996 World Cup quarterfinal against India in Bengaluru ended it.

While bilateral ODIs and T20Is shrink and cricket veers towards franchise T20 leagues, the World Cup will remain this vital destination that determines a player's halo. And gratitude is owed to Lloyd's champions – those buccaneering men, elastic on the field and forever enduring in their appeal.

Ricky Ponting, Glenn McGrath and Adam Gilchrist: three-time champions

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	23	10,880	16
2	Carlos Alcaraz	22	8,850	20
3	Alexander Zverev	28	6,500	24
4	Taylor Fritz	27	4,735	21
5	Novak Djokovic	38	4,630	19
6	Jack Draper	23	4,550	17
7	Lorenzo Musetti	23	4,470	20
8	Tommy Paul	28	3,470	20
9	Holger Rune	22	3,440	23
10	Ben Shelton	22	3,170	24
11	Daniil Medvedev	29	3,140	21
12	Alex de Minaur	26	3,085	22
13	Frances Tiafoe	27	2,990	25
14	Andrey Rublev	27	2,920	29
15	Arthur Fils	21	2,920	21

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 300 ▼ 67 spots

Mukund Sasikumar
Rank 427 ▲ 3 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	27	11,553	19
2	Coco Gauff	21	8,083	20
3	Jessica Pegula	31	6,483	21
4	Qinwen Zheng	22	4,853	20
5	Jasmine Paolini	29	4,805	18
6	Madison Keys	30	4,669	19
7	Mirra Andreeva	18	4,636	18
8	Iga Swiatek	24	4,618	16
9	Emma Navarro	24	3,697	25
10	Paula Badosa	27	3,684	22
11	Elena Rybakina	25	3,456	20
12	Diana Shnaider	21	3,216	27
13	Amanda Anisimova	23	3,119	21
14	Elina Svitolina	30	3,035	16
15	Karolina Muchova	28	2,989	18

Top Indians ▶

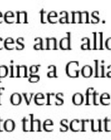
Shrivalli Bhamidipaty
Rank 322 ▼ 4 spots

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 342 ▲▼ No change

F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	198	5
2	Lando Norris	McLaren	176	2
3	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	155	2
4	George Russell	Mercedes	136	1
5	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	104	0
6	Lewis Hamilton	Ferrari	79	0
7	Kimi Antonelli	Mercedes	63	0
8	Alexander Albon	Williams	42	0
9	Esteban Ocon	Haas	22	0
10	Isack Hadjar	Racing Bulls	21	0
11	Nico Hulkenberg	Sauber	20	0
12	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	14	0
13	Carlos Sainz	Williams	13	0
14	Pierre Gasly	Alpine	11	0
15	Yuki Tsunoda	Red Bull	10	0
16	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin	8	0
17	Oliver Bearman	Haas	6	0
18	Liam Lawson	Racing Bulls	4	0
19	Gabriel Bortoleto	Sauber	0	0
20	Franco Colapinto	Alpine	0	0

Oscar Piastri



Lando Norris

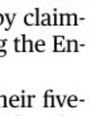
F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	McLaren	374	7
2	Mercedes	199	1
3	Ferrari	183	0
4	Red Bull	162	2
5	Williams	55	0
6	Haas	28	0
7	RB	28	0
8	Aston Martin	22	0
9	Kick Sauber	20	0
10	Alpine	11	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	97,179	18
2	Anders Antonsen	92,253	18
3	Shi Yu Qi	91,517	13
4	Jonatan Christie	80,614	16
5	Li Shi Feng	79,678	18
6	Chou Tien Chen	78,979	22
7	Kodai Naraoka	75,964	20
8	Alex Lanier	72,951	16
9	Viktor Axelsen	69,440	10
10	Loh Kean Yew	66,719	19
11	Lu Guang Zu	61,860	18
12	Kenta Nishimoto	59,762	23
13	Weng Hong Yang	59,570	17
14	Koki Watanabe	58,264	14
15	Lee Cheuk Yiu	57,192	20

Top Indians ▶



Lakshya Sen
Rank 21

Ayush Shetty
Rank 34

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	An Se Young	1,11,120	11
2	Wang Zhi Yi	1,05,312	17
3	Akane Yamaguchi	86,364	14
4	Han Yue	85,550	17
5	Chen Yu Fei	73,885	10
6	Tomoka Miyazaki	71,964	22
7	Pornpawee Chochuwong	71,058	21
8	Gregoria Mariska Tunjung	70,060	13
9	Supanida Katethong	65,107	15
10	Ratchanok Intanon	64,144	19
11	Putri Kusuma Wardani	62,590	17
12	Yeo Jia Min	61,583	17
13	Gao Fang Jie	60,810	12
14	Busanan Ongbamrungphan	60,610	17
15	Sim Yu Jin	56,039	14

Top Indians ▶

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 18

Malvika Bansod
Rank 22

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	888	932
2	Harry Brook	873	898
3	Kane Williamson	867	919
4	Yashasvi Jaiswal	847	854
5	Steve Smith	824	947
6	Temba Bavuma	806	769
7	Kamindu Mendis	761	779
8	Rishabh Pant	739	801
8	Saud Shakeel	739	764
10	Daryl Mitchell	725	804

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	908	908
2	Kagiso Rabada	868	902
3	Pat Cummins	847	914
4	Noman Ali	806	806
5	Josh Hazlewood	805	864
6	Nathan Lyon	785	812
7	Marco Jansen	783	803
8	Matt Henry	782	782
9	Prabath Jayasuriya	751	801
10	Ravindra Jadeja	745	899

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Shubman Gill	784	847
2	Babar Azam	766	898
3	Rohit Sharma	756	882
4	Virat Kohli	736	909
5	Daryl Mitchell	720	750
6	Harry Tector	708	767
7	Shreyas Iyer	704	710
8	Charith Asalanka	694	694
9	Ibrahim Zadran	676	693
10	Shai Hope	660	802

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Maheesh Theekshana	680	686
2	Kuldeep Yadav	650	761
3	Keshav Maharaj	648	741
4	Bernard Scholtz	644	648
5	Rashid Khan	640	799
6	Mitchell Santner	637	657
7	Matt Henry	622	691
8	Ravindra Jadeja	616	733
9	Adam Zampa	614	699
10	Josh Hazlewood	603	727

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Travis Head	856	885
2	Abhishek Sharma	829	829
3	Tilak Varma	804	845
4	Philip Salt	791	881
5	Jos Buttler	772	774
6	Suryakumar Yadav	739	912
7	Pathum Nissanka	714	722
8	Tim Seifert	708	708
9	Kusal Perera	676	786
9	Reeza Hendricks	676	717

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jacob Duffy	723	723
2	Adil Rashid	710	747
3	Varun Chakravarthy	706	706
4	Wanindu Hasaranga	700	809
5	Akeal Hosein	697	714
6	Adam Zampa	694	746
7	Ravi Bishnoi	674	707
8	Maheesh Theekshana	666	686
9	Rashid Khan	664	828
10	Arshdeep Singh	653	679

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As Per IDC India Report, Feb'25

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Minister promises to review plan on felling 368 trees at Cantonment Rly. Colony

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre visited the Bangalore Cantonment Railway Colony at Vasanth nagar on Friday, where the Railway Land Development Authority (RLDA), under the Ministry of Railways, has sought permission to cut 368 trees for a railway commercial development project.

The Minister assured the public that a meeting with officials would be called to review the matter. In April, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had issued a public notice inviting objections to the proposed felling of 368 trees located inside the colony.

Letter to CM

Environmental activists have written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah urging him to immediately intervene and prevent the felling of 368 trees.

In the wake of this and responding to the request made by environmentalists that this area, which has huge trees of various species, should be preserved as a breathing space and it should be declared a biodiversity heritage site, Mr. Khandre promised to call a meeting of officials and review the matter.

BBMP Forest Department officials present at the site apprised the Minister about details of the tree species in the site and said that there has been widespread opposition from the public.

10-year-old succumbs to burns days after being electrocuted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 10-year-old boy who was electrocuted and suffered over 70% burns on Sunday after coming in contact with a high-tension power line while playing in front of his residence in Gayatri Nagar, K.R. Puram, succumbed on Friday.

The deceased, Ananth, 10, hailed from Nepal.

He was living with his mother, who works as a domestic help in the city, while his father lived in Nepal. The mother-son duo lived in a rented accommodation on the top floor of a three-storeyed building, built very close to a high-tension wire, in violation of rules.

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. officials, who visited the spot and conducted an inquiry, said that the boy had come in contact with a 220 kV transmission line.

Waste dumps near Indira Canteens raise a stink

Customers complain that hygiene at several canteens in the city has been compromised as garbage is being indiscriminately thrown near many of these eateries

Eman Syed
BENGALURU

Would you eat near a garbage dump? That is the question patrons of some Indira Canteens, which provide food at highly subsidised rates, are asking.

Customers complain that hygiene at several Indira Canteens in Bengaluru have been compromised as garbage is being indiscriminately dumped near many of these eateries.

A view of the Indira Canteen near Krishna Rajendra Market in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

A reality check by *The Hindu* found that at least seven canteens – in Chalavadipalya - Chamarajpet, Tannery Road - Manishwar Nagar, Shivajinagar, S.P. Road, Austin Town, Ejipura, Palace Guttahalli, and Sampige Road, which are located in high-density and high-footfall areas – are close to garbage black spots, or, in some cases, garbage transfer stations, rendering the surroundings unhygienic.

Many canteens have also been accused of poor waste management. Noorulla, a small business-owner from Tannery Road whose shop is located opposite an Indira Canteen, shared his concerns over poor hygiene. "I live far from my shop and have to leave early every morning. So, bringing food from home isn't feasible. I hoped the Indira Canteen would help, but with the waste piling up, it is difficult to have lunch there," he said.

Jennifer, a local resident, remarked, "The unbearable smell from the garbage near the Indira Canteen makes it difficult for us to stay at home. I occasionally relied on the canteen as I am a working mother, but now with mosquitoes and filth around, it has become highly uncomfortable to eat there."

Junaid Ahmed, a resident of Shivajinagar, criticised the negligence of civic authorities. "The authorities have been irresponsibly dumping waste in this residential area. Even after the canteen was opened, there has been no improvement. It's disgraceful that food is being served in such conditions."

Siriamma, a vegetable vendor at K.R. Market, expressed frustration over the unhygienic environment. "There's an Indira Canteen and a government-installed water counter nearby. I work late hours and cannot carry food as it gets spoiled. The canteen was my only hope, but it's worse than spoiled food because it's served in such unhygienic conditions that you don't feel like eating there."

Responding to these concerns, Suralkar Vikas Kishor, Special Commissioner (Health), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), said that each zone had a different contractor to maintain Indira Canteens. "The main challenge lies in ground-level execution. We will ensure that necessary steps, including surprise inspections, are taken to improve hygiene around the canteens," he said.

High Court stays new tender for waste collection

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that "there is a breach of the undertaking given to the court earlier", the High Court of Karnataka has stayed the new tender invited by the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) on May 28 for collection and transportation of city's garbage.

The court noted that on April 22, it gave permission to the State government and the BSWML to continue with the tender invited on November 7, 2024, but both the government and the BSWML, instead of continuing that tender, have now come out with a new tender.

Inviting new tender with new clauses is contrary to the undertaking given to the court by the State Advocate General, who had assured the court that the November 7, 2024, tender would be continued and would be taken to its logical conclusion by allowing participation of those contractors, who were either disqualified or their bids were rejected and have filed petitions before the court, to participate in the tender, the court noted.

The court has expressed serious displeasure with the A-G on the conduct of the State govt. in breaching the undertaking

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on the petition filed by Bengaluru Mahanagara Swachate Mattu Lorry Malikara Hagoo Guthigedarara Sangha.

It has been pointed out in the petition that the government, in its May 26 approval granted for floating a new tender, , imposed a condition that BSWML has to take permission from the minister in charge of the department instead of continuing the 2024 tender.

This condition, the petitioner-sangha has claimed, is a clear violation of the provisions of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act.

During the hearing, the court expressed serious displeasure with the Advocate General on the conduct of the State government in breaching the undertaking given to the court earlier.

Two-day Gamaka programme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sanjayanagar Samskrutika Vedike will host a two-day Gamaka programme on June 28 and 29, offering a unique blend of music and poetic storytelling steeped in Karnataka's literary tradition.

The event will be held at Gayathri Parishath in Sanjayanagar at 5 p.m. on both days.

Renowned Gamaka exponents Nirmala Prasanna and A.V. Prasanna will present select portions from Kumaravyasa Bharata Kathamanjari, focusing on the Sri Krishna Sandhana and Vishvarupa Darshana episodes from Sandhi 9.

Their performance will include traditional musical renditions interwoven with rich interpretative commentary, bringing to life the poetic grandeur of the Kannada epic.

'₹5 lakh compensation from BBMP inadequate'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The family of the 29-year-old HR executive, Akshay Shivaram, who succumbed to the head injuries after a tree branch fell on him, said that the ₹5 lakh compensation offered by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is inadequate.

Akshay, a resident of Srinivasa Nagar, was critically injured on Sunday afternoon, when a branch from a roadside tree fell on him while he was riding his two-wheeler on Brahma Chaitanya Road in Hanumantha Nagar.

He succumbed to his injuries on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters on Friday, the brother of the deceased, Benakaraj said, "The government gave ₹25 lakh compensation to stampede victims. But my brother, who died due to the civic body's negligence, has been offered only ₹5 lakh. So far, apart from the ₹5 lakh cheque, no other help has come from the civic body."

"The civic body must also take responsibility for the hospital bills. Strict action should be taken against those responsible," Mr. Benakaraj told the reporters.

KSRTC uncovers diesel theft attempt during inspection

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A case of attempted diesel misappropriation was uncovered by officials of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) during a routine fuel tanker inspection at the Pandavapura depot.

According to KSRTC officials, the detection was made on May 13, when a tanker arrived at the depot to deliver 20,000 litres of diesel from a terminal in Hassan.

According to KSRTC officials, the fuel decanting team at the Pandavapura depot, led by the depot manager, noticed an anomaly during the preliminary inspection of the tanker. "We observed a shortage of about 130 litres in the fourth compartment of the vehicle. A detailed inspection revealed a 15 mm external tube illegally inserted into the delivery pipe," said a senior KSRTC official.

"This tube was set up in a way that allowed fuel to be diverted directly into the diesel tank of the tanker itself. It was a clear and calculated attempt to siphon diesel before delivery," the official added.

Following this discovery, the depot manager immediately lodged a complaint with the Assistant Commissioner of the Legal Metrology Department (Weights and Measures) in Mandya. A joint team from the department visited the depot on May 14 and confirmed the illegal arrangement.

"A case was registered under Section 15 of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. The tanker, along with related documents, was seized," the official said.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohammed Sufiya Afreen D/o Mohammed Gayaz Ahmed, R/at Villa No.152/3, S J Green Paradise, Hoskote, Kamblipura, VTC: Kamblipura, PO: Hasigala, District: Bengaluru Rural-562114 do hereby solemnly state that, my correct name is MOHAMMED SUFIYA AFREEN as entered in my Aadhaar Card (No.3114 7045 7656), Driving License and my SSLC Marks Card. But in my Passport (No.P8034630), Pan Card my name is wrongly mentioned as **SUFIYA AFREEN**. I further state that **MOHAMMED SUFIYA AFREEN** and **SUFIYA AFREEN** denotes the name of one and the same person. I further state that I will continue as **MOHAMMED SUFIYA AFREEN** for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 19.06.2025 sworn to Notary C.S. Ramamurthy Rao.

Form No.14 [See Regulation 33(2)]
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT-2)
4th Floor, BSNL Telephone House Building, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru, Pin Code-560001

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.
RC/289/2022

Indian Overseas Bank
Versus
Smt. O Sarita Goud

To,
(CHB) **INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK,** No.28, 27th Cross, Near Monotype Bus Stop, Banashankari II Stage, Bengaluru-560070 ...Certificate Holders
(CD 1) **SMT.O SARITA GOUD W/o. Sri Devendra Goud,** No.11, Ground Floor, 8th Cross, N.R. Colony, Bengaluru-560004, Also At: R/At 43/283/B, Sangal Bag, Karnool Andhra Pradesh-518001 ...Certificate Debtors

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2) in TA/2068/2017** an amount of **Rs.36,26,118/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs Twenty Six Thousands One Hundred Eighteen Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest **@ 11.70%** Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. **05/08/2016** till realization and costs of **Rs.39,255/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Thousands Two Hundred Fifty Five Only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publishing for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
   (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
   (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **23/08/2022.**
Sd/- Recovery Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 13/2025 Date : 17-06-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty	Tender Due on
1	38251183	Air brake hose coupling complete for brake pipe	11326 Nos	30.06.2025
2	45251301	Coupling socket assembly for inter vehicular coupler 500A,750V	304 Nos.	30.06.2025
3	33245009	Supply, installation and commissioning & maintenance of automatic fire detection cum suppression system	25 Nos.	30.06.2025
4	30251329	Foot step arrangement assembly	2347 Nos.	01.07.2025
5	33251283	Brake Caliper Unit Right Version	44 Nos.	03.07.2025
6	56251098	PVC Signalling Cable 19C x 1.5 Sq mm	446 Kms.	07.07.2025
7	56251085	Lead Acid Low Maintenance Secondary cells 2V, 300 Ah	941 Nos.	07.07.2025
8	60255031	10mm Thick CGRSP for Drg.No. T-8669	106000 Nos.	09.07.2025
9	60255040	10mm Thick CGRSP for Drg.No. T-8998	60000 Nos.	09.07.2025
10	45251481A	Self priming mono block pump, 0.5HP	2832 Nos.	09.07.2025
11	60252023	Elastic Rail Clip MK-V T-5919	4061927 Nos.	14.07.2025
12	33251361	High tensile AAR-H type tight lock coupler	186 Sets.	14.07.2025
13	33251069	Non asbestos based organic Brake Pad	46876 Sets.	22.07.2025
14	38251354	Coupler Body for Non- Transition CBC	710 Nos.	28.07.2025
15	33251303	Rubber Pad for Primary Suspension	10306 Nos.	31.07.2025
16	38251398	Slack Adjuster Complete type IRSA 600	1316 Nos.	04.08.2025
17	33251476	Must Change Kit for Brake Cylinder and Caliper	10 Sets.	06.08.2025

For Tender No. 33251450 of Notice No.09/2025, Due Date for opening of tender changed from 05-06-2025 to 26-06-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/209AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, NASHIK
E-Tender Notice No.16 for 2025-26 (Online)

Online E-Tenders in "B-1" Form for the following works invited by Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik Phone No. (0253/2583761-64, 2575324) for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State From Capable of P.W.Deptt. Registered / Unregistered Contractor or International Contractor whose Sub company/ branch in India and also complete terms and conditions mentioned in tender document.

Tender document download on our website **https://mahatenders.gov.in** Right of rejection of E-tender / cancellation of E-tender reserved by The Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik. *Conditional Tender will not be accepted.

Note: Above mentioned E-Tender Notice including Total 5 (Five) (Costing upto Rs.1000.00 Lacks) Works And details of mentioned E-Tender Notice available on below website.

1. **www.mahapwd.gov.in**
2. **https://mahatenders.gov.in**

Tender Document Sale Start and End Date Time	23.06.2025		to	30.06.2025	
	From	11:05		Upto	17:00

* Blank E-Tender form Fees (Non refundable) and EMD amount will be accepted Online only.
* Post Qualification criteria condition included in tender document
* All eligible/ intrested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal **https://mahatenders.govin** before down loading tender documents and participate in e-tendering
* The information of E-Payment Gateway available on E-Tendering website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**

Please Note this to all Registered/Unregistered Contractors.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division, Nashik
DGIPR/2025-2026/1268

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR S&T MISCELLANEOUS WORKS

E-Tender Notice No. 91-SNT-Proj.-TENDER-2025, Date 10.06.2025.
Name of Work: (i) Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of Test Bench facilities for FAT Testing in the office of CSTE (Project)/SECR at Bilaspur, (ii). Provision of Centralized SAT arrangements for Distributed EI with the provision of Mux DeMux arrangement, Machine based Auto FAT, Checking of Interface, Application Logic, Route Control Chart by IRSE/ IRSTELO License holder at 02 Levels and Design & Preparation/ Modification of Signal Interlocking Plan & Route Control Chart (iii). Supply installation, testing and commissioning of Server based Data Network in the office of CSTE (Project) for Data management of Signaling Design in Bilaspur of SEC Railway.
Tender Value : ₹ **9,35,20,967.00/-** (Rupees Nine crores thirty five lakhs twenty thousand nine hundred sixty seven only). **Bid Security (Earnest Money) :** ₹ **6,17,600.00/-** (Rupees Six lakhs seventeen thousand six hundred only). **Closing Date & Time of Tender :** Up to **15:00** hrs. on **02.07.2025.**
For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for 'E' tender document, please contact our website https://www.ireps.gov.in.
Dy. Chief Sig. & Tele. Engineer (Proj-I)
CPR/10/108 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur.
South East Central Railway @secrail

बिहार सरकार

समाहरणालय, अरवल
(मद्यनिषेध एवं उत्पाद शाखा)
बिहार मद्यनिषेध एवं उत्पाद अधिनियम–2016 (यथा संशोधित)
के तहत राजसात किये गये वाहनों की
आम सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि बिहार राज्य में पूर्ण शराबबंदी के उपरांत वैसे वाहन जिन्हें मद्यनिषेध एवं उत्पाद अधिनियम–2016 (यथा संशोधित) में विहित प्रावधानों के तहत अरवल जिला अन्तर्गत मद्यनिषेध एवं उत्पाद विभाग तथा विभिन्न पुलिस थानों द्वारा जप्त एवं समाहर्त्ता–सह–जिला दण्डाधिकारी, अरवल के द्वारा अधिहरित किया गया है, उनकी सार्वजनिक नीलामी किया जाना है। जिन वाहन स्वामी के नाम/पता की जानकारी प्राप्त हुई है। उन्हें रजिस्टर्ड डाक द्वारा सूचित किया गया है। पुनः उन वाहन स्वामी एवं वैसे वाहन जिनके स्वामित्व का पता नहीं चल सका। उनकों अंतिम सूचना समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित की जा रही है। जो नीलामी की तिथि 30.06.2025 से पूर्व स्वंय उपस्थित होकर विधि शाखा, अरवल/अधीक्षक मद्यनिषेध, अरवल में वाहन विमुक्ति हेतु आवेदन समर्पित कर सकते है। अन्यथा वाहन स्वामी तय निर्धारित तिथि तक वाहन विमुक्ति हेतु आवेदन समर्पित नहीं करते है तो जिला में गठित नीलामी समिति द्वारा निम्न सारणी के अनुसार वाहनों की नियमानुसार नीलामी कर दी जाएगी, जो निम्न प्रकार है :–

क्र0	अधिहरण वाद संख्या	अधिहरण आदेश का ज्ञापांक/दिनांक	थाना कांड संख्या/दिनांक	वाहन का प्रकार	वाहन का निबंधन संख्या	चेचिस नं0	वाहन का निर्माण वर्ष	वाहन स्वामी का नाम/पता	अभियुक्ति
01	19/24	60 मु0/विधि दिनांक–20.07.2024	उत्पाद 304/23 28.09.2023	स्पलैण्डर मोटरसाईकिल	KA17EH-1179	MD2A14AZ2C WD18030	2012	डॉ0 अनुभव अग्रवाल, पिता–सिताराम अग्रवाल, पता–रूम नं0–150, डेन्टल कॉलेज, बॉयज हॉस्टल, एमसीसी, बी0 ब्लॉक, दावानगेरे, कर्नाटक।	

उक्त आम सूचना कर्नाटक राज्य के स्थानीय समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित करने की कृपा की जाए।
उक्त सूचना **state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

समाहर्त्ता–सह–
जिला दण्डाधिकारी, अरवल

PR- 006470 (Excise) 2025-26

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Prime Volleyball League: the prudent, viable revolution that is being televised

PHOTO: PRIME VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

The tournament has injected fresh life into the sport in the country. The inclusive business model also continues to draw new investors. Given the audience it has already attracted and the young talent it is bringing through, it has the potential to become one of Indian sport's success stories

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Tuhin Mishra was looking for a sport that could catch the imagination of the television audience. He also wanted it to be a sport in which the national team had the potential to climb the ladder in the global arena. Volleyball fitted the bill, he found out.

That was some seven years ago. The Prime Volleyball League has not just injected badly needed fresh life into the sport in India, but it continues to attract new investors as well. Goa Guardians became the league's 10th team ahead of the player-auction at Kozhikode earlier this month.

Growing viewership

Tuhin, who was in the northern Kerala city, is excited that the fourth edition of the league could have a wider audience with YouTube streaming the action across the world. "Last season alone, the television viewership, according to BARC, was close to 200 million, which is a huge number for a non-cricket league in India," the league's co-founder tells *The Hindu*. "The league's growth over the last couple of years has, in fact, been really good."

The Prime Volleyball League wasn't always the Prime Volleyball League, though. Back in 2019, Tuhin's Baseline Ventures, in partnership with the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI), had launched Pro Volley. That league, however, lasted just one season. From the indoor court, Pro Volley moved to a court of law after the VFI terminated the 10-year contract. Baseline won the case, in straight sets, as it were: the VFI was ordered to pay ₹4.5 crore as compensation.

> Last season alone, the television viewership was close to 200 million, which is a huge number for a non-cricket league in India... We found that lots of women and kids are watching
>
> **TUHIN MISHRA**
> Prime Volleyball League co-founder

After a break of three years, the Prime Volleyball League took off. Calicut Heroes, which won Season 3 last year, was also one of the teams in Pro Volley. The franchise's owner, P.T. Safeer, says his passion for the game was shared by his partners at the Kozhikode-based Beacon Group. "We used to conduct volleyball tournaments and then formed a club," he says. "When Pro Volley took off, we wanted to be part of it."

"We had faith in volleyball," says Tuhin. "Pro Volley was a success; good crowds came to watch the games, the television numbers were good, and major corporates, like Rupay, Nippon Paint and Bank of Baroda, came on board as sponsors."

There are also sponsors for the franchises in the Prime Volleyball League. "Sponsors take quite a bit of pressure off us," says Safeer. "Yes, we know it will take some time for the league to break even, but we are willing to wait."

Tuhin believes it could take only another three to four years for that to happen. "Even IPL franchises took 10 years to break even," he says. "Actually some of our teams are almost there already."

The league should be among the most prudently managed ones out there. The entire tournament is held at one venue, over a month, thus saving on the cost of logistics. And look at the way the players' salaries are capped. The fattest paycheque this year is ₹22.5 lakh. Exorbitant salaries have proved rather costly for some leagues in India, with players getting paid the kind of money they would not have dreamt of.

Slow and steady

"Yes, that was something we were very conscious of," says Tuhin. "With our background in sports management, having handled careers of several athletes, we know where the problem is when it comes to the viability of a professional league. The biggest problem is trying to pay the players too much. Every league is not an IPL. The growth in salary has to be realistic; it has to be slow and steady."

Still for Indian players, the money in the Prime Volleyball League is really good, because they used to be paid a pittance earlier. Tom Joseph, one of the finest Indian volleyball has ever produced, says that although organisers made a lot of money from hosting regular tournaments – volleyball is insanely popular in small towns in northern Kerala, where over 10,000 fans fill makeshift galleries – players like him would not be adequately compensated or even given proper accommodation.

"Even after I have played for India, I remember sleeping on benches at a school for a National championship, and now the Prime Volleyball players are provided accommodation in five-star hotels," says Tom, who was the head coach of Hyderabad Black Hawks in 2023. "In my time, a top player would get only ₹25,000 or 30,000 for an entire season, in which we would be playing a dozen tournaments over several months. Now from the Prime Volleyball League, even an average player would get ₹5 lakh, that too playing for just a month."

Tom points out countries like Iran and Qatar had similar leagues in his playing days. "I have played in Qatar, and because of those leagues, the national teams of those countries have improved greatly," says the former India captain. "Iran used to be ranked No. 8 or 9 in Asia, behind India, and now it is No. 2."

He says because of the league, more young talents are coming through. "Look at a player like Jasjodh Singh from Punjab, he was picked up for ₹14.75 lakh by Kochi Blue Spikers even though he is not an international," says Tom. "Volleyball is now looking attractive for youngsters. And because of the league, Indian volleyball is getting new talents, such as K. Anand, E.J. John Joseph, K. Rahul and T.R. Sethu."

That, says Tuhin, is one of the aims of the league. "We want to see the Indian volleyball team faring well at the international level, and everyone's dream is to see India playing at the Olympics," he says. "And the talent is there, and we are improving our ranking, too. Even FIVB, the international volleyball governing body, is keen about India; they have appointed a coach for India, Dragan Mihailovic, and they are paying him."

Reasons for optimism

There is reason for Tuhin to be optimistic. India does not merely have a strong tradition in volleyball – the country has produced world class men like Jimmy George and contested the final of the World under-19 championship in 2003 – but there is also plenty of talent around still. Volleyball is one of the very few truly global sports in which India can aspire to do well.

Tuhin says the game is getting increasingly popular, going by the television viewership. "The best thing about the television audience, we found, is that lots of women and kids are watching the league," he says. "It is not just mostly men – as is the case with most sports broadcasts – that tune into the league. The split between men and women is 53-47."

Safeer believes the league's business model also should help. "This is a league in which the franchises also have a direct stake in the ownership," he says. "So we will get a fair share of the league's profit."

The Prime Volleyball League indeed has the potential to become one of Indian sport's success stories.

> In my time, a top player would get only ₹25,000 or 30,000 for an entire season. Now from the Prime Volleyball League, even an average player would get ₹5 lakh, that too playing for just a month
>
> **TOM JOSEPH**
> Former India captain

GAME THEORY

Fourth-innings masters: **coming good in the end**

Aiden Markram's match-winning 136 in the World Test Championship final was his third century in the fourth and final innings of a Test. Only Don Bradman and Herbert Sutcliffe have three fourth-innings 100s in fewer innings (15) than Markram (16). We look at the batters with the most fourth-innings centuries and runs:

Kane Williamson

Younis Khan

Joe Root

Sachin Tendulkar

MOST FOURTH-INNINGS 100s

Player	Team	Span	Inns	100s	HS
Kane Williamson	New Zealand	2010-2024	29	5	133*
Younis Khan	Pakistan	2000-2017	40	5	171*
Sunil Gavaskar	India	1971-1987	33	4	221
Ricky Ponting	Australia	1995-2012	43	4	156
Ramnaresh Sarwan	West Indies	2000-2011	36	4	128
Graeme Smith	South Africa	2002-2014	41	4	154*
Geoffrey Boycott	England	1965-1981	34	3	128*
Don Bradman	Australia	1928-1948	15	3	173*
Graham Gooch	England	1978-1995	29	3	133
Gordon Greenidge	West Indies	1974-1991	38	3	214*
Mahela Jayawardene	Sri Lanka	1998-2014	36	3	123
Aiden Markram	South Africa	2018-2025	16	3	143
Ben Stokes	England	2013-2024	34	3	155
Herbert Sutcliffe	England	1924-1935	15	3	135
Sachin Tendulkar	India	1989-2013	60	3	136

MOST FOURTH-INNINGS RUNS

Player	Team	Span	Inns	Runs	Ave
Joe Root	England	2013-2024	50	1,684	42.10
Sachin Tendulkar	India	1989-2013	60	1,625	36.93
Graeme Smith	South Africa	2002-2014	41	1,611	51.96
Alastair Cook	England	2006-2018	53	1,611	35.80
Shivnarine Chanderpaul	West Indies	1994-2015	49	1,580	41.57
Rahul Dravid	India	1996-2012	57	1,575	40.38
Younis Khan	Pakistan	2000-2017	40	1,465	50.51
Ricky Ponting	Australia	1995-2012	43	1,462	50.41
Brian Lara	West Indies	1992-2006	46	1,440	35.12
Sunil Gavaskar	India	1971-1987	33	1,398	58.25

SOURCE: espncricinfo.com

PICTURE THIS

Queens at Queen's

Olga Morozova's 52-year reign as defending champion at Queen's Club ended last weekend when 37-year-old qualifier Tatjana Maria defeated 23-year-old World No. 13 Amanda Anisimova to cap a milestone edition.

Post 1973, Queen's — the London fixture that marks the transition from clay to grass — has been solely an ATP event. But a deal was struck last year to play a WTA 500 tournament in Barons Court before the men compete, clearing the way for a historic return of women's tennis.

When Morozova triumphed over half a century ago, it was a different world. She won with a wooden racket, spent the week in a cheap bed and breakfast and took a public bus to the courts for her matches. Rain even forced matches to be moved indoors onto a wooden court.

Morozova earned £1,000 but couldn't keep it because she hailed from the former Soviet Union. Maria banked £120,000. However, the disparity in funds for the women's (£1.043 million) and men's (£2.122 million) events drew criticism.

The Lawn Tennis Association has pledged to have equal prize money at Queen's by 2029.

Purple Line services to be partially curtailed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has announced a curtailment of services on the Purple Line of the Namma Metro due to maintenance work between Halasuru and Trinity stations. Train services will be suspended between M.G. Road and Baiyappanahalli from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Sunday.

BMRCL stated that this short interruption was to carry out the scheduled maintenance in a safe environment keeping in mind the safety and convenience of commuters.

Metro services on the rest of the Purple Line from Challaghatta to M.G. Road, and from Baiyappanahalli to Whitefield (Kadugodi), will continue to run as per the normal schedule. Services on the Green Line, connecting Madavara to Silk Institute, however, will remain unaffected. Full services on the curtailed stretch are expected to resume from 9 a.m. onwards.

Alliance Française to celebrate Music Day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Alliance Française de Bangalore is celebrating "*Fête de la musique*" (World Music Day) on Saturday from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. at its Vasanth Nagar centre.

This year, the Alliance Française Bangalore is partnering with Indian Music Experience Museum and will present over 100 performances on two different stages, besides holding movie screenings, musical workshops, interactive displays, a karaoke room and more, said a release from Alliance.

"The event was created in France in 1982 with the concept of dedicating a whole day to the power of music. On that day , everywhere in France, anybody is allowed to perform any music anywhere," it said. Variety of genres, from rock to classical Indian music, pop, fusion, jazz, and hip-hop, among others will be presented.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, JUN. 21		
RISE	05:55	SET 18:48
RISE	01:46	SET 14:39
SUNDAY, JUN. 22		
RISE	05:55	SET 18:48
RISE	02:32	SET 15:41
MONDAY, JUN. 23		
RISE	05:55	SET 18:49
RISE	03:26	SET 16:46

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	24
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	30	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Mosty dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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Bike taxi riders say lack of a clear policy has plunged them into a pit of despair

Several bike taxi riders have begun shifting to food and quick commerce delivery platforms to sustain themselves; association members urge the government to hold talks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hundreds of bike taxi riders across Karnataka say their livelihood is at stake following the State government's ongoing crackdown on bike taxis. Riders are now demanding urgent regulation of the sector, arguing that the absence of clear policy has left many jobless and struggling to make ends meet.

"My phone won't stop ringing, 250 to 300 drivers call me every day, asking what they should do," said Mohammed Salim, president of the Namma Bike Taxi Association. "I don't know what to tell them. Should we lose our livelihood because the government has no policy for bike taxis? We don't want chaos. We need regulation, not a ban," he added.

Last year alone, Karnataka saw over 8 crore bike taxi rides, Mr. Salim pointed out. "We're not asking for favours, we're asking for the right to work legally and safely."

As desperation grows among riders, many fear that the longer the delay in regulation, the worse their situation will become.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

> What's ironic is that the government cleared a gig workers welfare Bill just recently. And yet, they are dismantling a sector that provides flexible income to thousands of gig workers across the State
>
> **MOHAMMED SALIM,** President, NBTA

Financial distress

For many, the impact of the ban has been deeply personal. Imran M., 37, a father of two, said he has had to borrow money twice this month just to get by. "My daughter's school is asking for fees, and I have nothing left. I used to earn enough to support my family. Now, we're surviving on borrowed time."

Another rider, Sathish, 26, questioned the State government's double standards. "Delivery partners can use the same bike to deliver food, but I get fined for giving someone a ride. Where's the logic in that? All I want is to earn an honest living."

Meanwhile, several bike taxi riders have begun shifting to food and quick commerce delivery platforms to sustain themselves.

"I started delivering food and quick commerce apps just two days ago. I have been working as a bike taxi rider for over two years, and adjusting to this new kind of work hasn't been easy. It's physically demanding and the pay is unpredictable," Sathish added.

Open letters

The Namma Bike Taxi Association has written a series of open letters to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, but riders say they are yet to receive a response.

"What's ironic is that the government cleared a gig workers welfare Bill just recently. And yet, they are dismantling a sector that provides flexible income to thousands of gig workers across the State," said Mr. Salim.

As desperation grows among riders, many fear that the longer the delay in regulation, the worse their situation will become. The association members are now calling for an immediate dialogue with the government to frame a legal structure that protects both riders and passengers.

First Indian epigraphical reference to Halley's Comet found in 15th century copper plate inscription in Srisailam

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

The first Indian epigraphical reference to Halley's Comet has been discovered in a copper plate inscription dated 1456 CE belonging to the Vijayanagar period and preserved at the Srisailam Mallikarjunaswamy temple in Andhra Pradesh.

K. Munirathnam Reddy, director, Epigraphy Branch of the Archaeological Survey of India, who announced the discovery, told *The Hindu* that the inscription was written in Sanskrit, using the Nagari script, and refers to the appearance of a comet and a subsequent meteor shower – events that historically coincide with the 1456 appearance of Halley's Comet.

A view of the Mallikarjunaswamy temple at Srisailam in Andhra Pradesh. FILE PHOTO

The copper plate charter dated to 1456 CE belonging to the Vijayanagar period and which refers to a comet.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Grant

The inscription records a grant made by the Vijayanagar ruler Mallikarjuna to a Vedic scholar on Saka 1378, Dhatru Ashadha ba. 11, corresponding to Monday, June 28, 1456 CE.

The grant was issued "in order to mitigate the great calamity believed to arise due to the appearance of a comet (dhumaketu mahaotpata santyartham), and the associated meteor shower (Prakasyasya mahotpata santyartham)", said Mr. Reddy.

The king donated a village named Simgapura, located in Kelajhasima of Hastinavati Vemthe, as an agrahara to a Brahmin named Limganarya, a Vedic scholar from Kadiyalapura.

Mr. Reddy said this place was probably present-day Kadiyalapulanka in Galividu mandalam, Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh, and noted that the scholar was probably well versed in astronomy. He noted that while references to 'dhumaketus' (comets) were found in ancient and medieval Indian texts, this was the first inscriptional record that had been discovered.

"What makes this particularly significant," he said, "is that the year mentioned in the inscription and the reference to the comet's appearance matches the year in which Halley's Comet was later established to have appeared," Mr. Reddy said.

He explained that in traditional belief systems and from the available historical records, the appearance of a comet and meteor shower was considered inauspicious, and associated with misfortune and calamities in many parts of the world.

Mr. Reddy said the appearance of the comet and the beliefs surrounding it were vividly expressed in the inscription in the phrase: *Prakāśyāya mahōtpāta śāntyartham dattavān vibhuh* – meaning: this grant was made in order to pacify the calamities that may arise due to the illuminating comets and meteor shower upon the king and his kingdom.

'Line by line' editing

The discovery of reference to comets in the inscription was made during the critical "line by line" editing of a set of 21 unpublished copper plate charters held by the Srisailam temple authorities.

The collection, comprising 78 copper leaves, would soon be published in book form, Mr. Reddy added.

Gang of three held for van theft

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vidyaranyapura police recently arrested a gang of three involved in stealing vans in the city.

In May this year, a van was stolen in Vidyaranyapura and the act was captured on CCTV cameras, which led the police to the gang. Police recovered six vans worth ₹12 lakh from them. The arrested have been identified as Umesh, Tabrez, and Zabi Khan - all residents of the city, and in their 30s. In 2020, the gang members were arrested for allegedly stealing a tractor. Despite serving jail term in that case, they got out on bail and took to stealing vehicles, specifically targeting vans, the police said.

DIRECTORATE OF SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS
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Director
D3/472/2025/I&PRD **Sports & Youth Affairs**

Bars and restaurants raided in city; 15 FIRs registered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru city Central and West division police, on Thursday night, raided 19 bars and restaurants where women were serving food and liquor in violation of prescribed norms.

The raids included several bars and restaurants on M.G. Road, Brigade Road, Ashok Nagar, Upparpet, Kalasipalya, Majestic, and around S.J. Park.

Raids followed a tip-off that the bars and restaurants that have a licence to let women serve food and liquor, were violating dress code and other norms.

Following the raid, 15 separate FIRs were registered for violating norms. Most of these bars and restaurants had skimpily clad women serving customers violating rules, said the police. Some were even operating dance bars and others were open beyond the permissible 1 a.m. deadline.

Mr. Singh said all establishments have to operate strictly adhering to their licence conditions and guidelines laid down by the High Court of Karnataka.

"There were reports of serious violations and immoral activities being carried out at some of these bars and restaurants. Stringent action will be taken against all violators," he said.

In a statement issued on Friday evening, the city police said that they would keep an eye on these establishments and would recommend for cancellation of their licences if they are found violating norms again.

During the raids, several other violations of Health and Family Welfare and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike norms were found. These violations will be flagged and referred to other departments, the officials said.

BMTC launches express services and new temple tour packages in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) launched new express services and a new temple tour route under the 'Ghati Isha Foundation' package.

BMTC also disbursed ₹1.5 crore in group insurance compensation to families of deceased employees.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy announced new limited-stop express services starting June 21 on high-demand routes, namely Kempegowda Bus Stand and Banashankari TTMC to Attibele, Devanahalli, Harohalli, and Nelamangala.

"These services will operate with a total of 48 schedules and 348 daily trips, running at intervals of 20 to 30 minutes. To encourage regular commuters, BMTC has introduced an 'Express Ordinary Services Monthly Pass' priced at ₹1,500 (excluding toll), now available digitally via the Tummoc app," Mr. Reddy said.

The fare for the express services will remain the same as the regular bus fare.

Spiritual tourism

BMTC has expanded its spiritual tourism offerings with the launch of a new weekend and holiday-only package tour titled 'Ghati Isha Foundation'.

This AC bus tour starts from Kempegowda Bus Station at 9 a.m. and includes visits to Nelamangala Anjaneya Swamy temple, Ghati Subrahmanya temple, Jnana Teertha Linga, and the Isha Foundation, with lunch arranged en route. The day-long tour concludes at 7 p.m. and is priced at ₹600 per person.

Premium packages

Additionally, two more premium package services – Isha Foundation-1A and 1B – will commence from Banashankari TTMC and Central Silk Board, respectively.

"These tours include visits to Bhoga Nandeeshwara temple, Kanive Basavanna temple, Sir M. Visvesvaraya's museum and samadhi, Rangasthala Ranganatha temple, and Isha Foundation, with fares ranging from ₹700 to ₹750," Mr. Reddy said.

Group insurance

BMTC distributed ₹1.5 crore in group insurance payouts to the families of employees who died in accidents. This follows the launch of the Group Insurance Scheme on February 19, 2024, which provides ₹50 lakh for accidental death, and ₹10 lakh for other causes.

"So far, ₹8.2 crore has been disbursed to 82 families of those who died of natural causes, and ₹3.5 crore to seven accident victims' families. The total payout under the scheme stands at ₹11.7 crore," Mr. Reddy explained.

BMTC operates over 62,000 trips daily across Bengaluru with a fleet of 6,897 buses, including 1,425 electric vehicles.

Power disruption

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Several areas in Bengaluru will face a scheduled power cut on Saturday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., because of planned maintenance work by the Bescom.

The power cut will affect following areas: Guruppanapalya, Bannerghatta Road, BTM Layout First Stage, Madivala, Maruthi Nagar, Bismillah Nagar, G.M. Palya, Krishnappa Garden, Srinivagilu, Friends Colony, Cauvery Layout, Chandra Reddy Layout, Ejipura, Aradhana Layout, Sundari Memorial Area, Viveknagar (extension area), Domlur 14th Cross, Kodihalli, K.R. Colony, Gundappagowda Road, Inner Ring Road, S.T. Bed area and Amarjyothi Layout.

Spotlight
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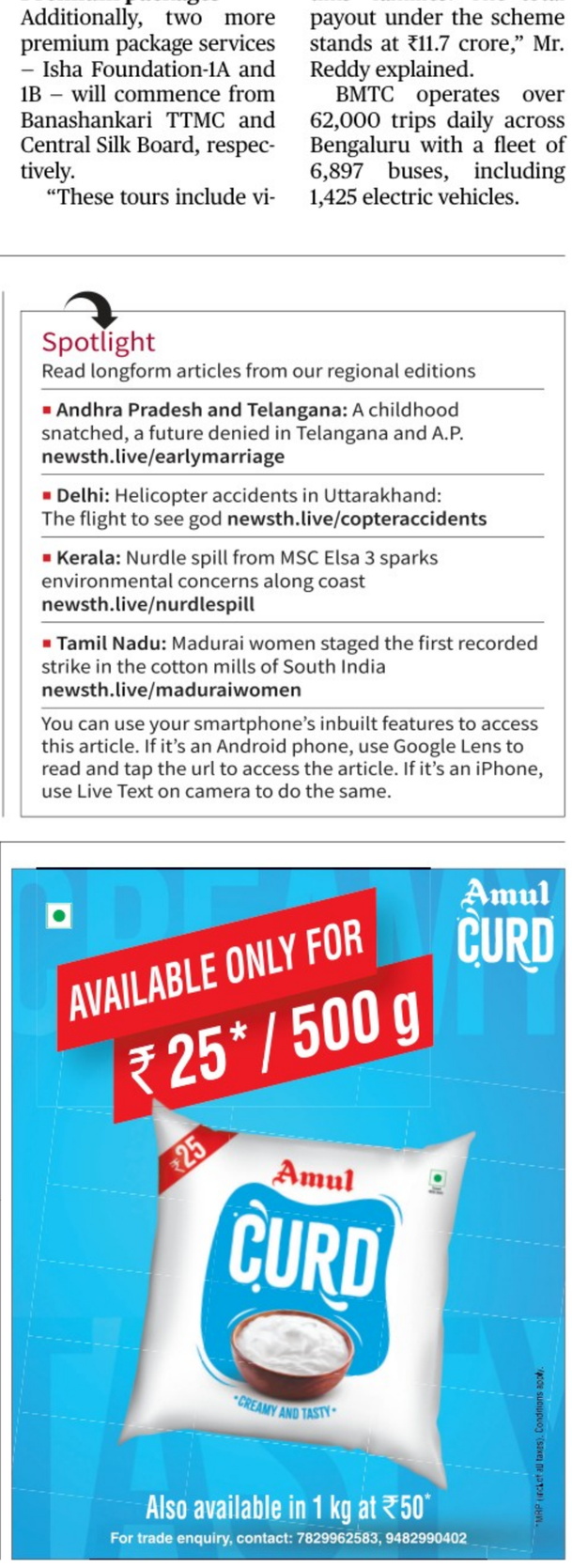

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Storage double than last year's in hydel reservoirs due to early monsoon

The present storage in major reservoirs can help generate 2,487 million units of power as against 1,198 MU which could have been generated from storage in the corresponding period last year

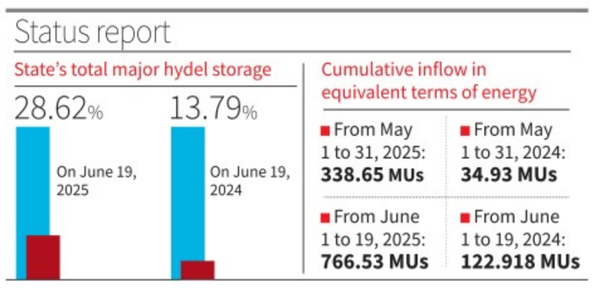
B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

The early onset of monsoon and vigorous rainfall in the Malnad region in the last couple of weeks have resulted in Karnataka's major hydel reservoirs reporting storage which is double of that during the corresponding period in the previous year.

The cumulative storage in all three major hydel reservoirs of the State – Linganamakki, Supa, and Mani – accounted for 28.62% of the full capacity at 8 a.m. on June 19 as against 13.79% during the corresponding period last year.

The present storage can help generate 2,487 million units (MU) of power as against the storage level during the corresponding period last year which could have generated just 1,198 million units, as per the data available with the Energy Department.

Key infrastructure: A file photo of the Linganamakki dam built across the Sharavati in Sagar taluk of Shivamogga district.


Status report
State's total major hydel storage
28.62%
On June 19, 2025
13.79%
On June 19, 2024
Cumulative inflow in equivalent terms of energy
From May 1 to 31, 2025: 338.65 MUs
From May 1 to 31, 2024: 34.93 MUs
From June 1 to 19, 2025: 766.53 MUs
From June 1 to 19, 2024: 122.918 MUs

Carry forward

Apart from the early onset of monsoon, the reservoirs have carried forward a sizeable quantum of storage from the previous water year which is evident by the fact that these reservoirs had a cumulative storage that could help generate 2,212 MUs of power by the middle of May as against the previous year's storage level that could generate 1,433 MUs.

However, the data indicates that the early onset of monsoon has significantly contributed to the increase in storage. Generally, the hydel reservoirs would start getting good inflow sometime from the third week of June as the southwest monsoon would normally enter the State at the end of the first week of June or in the second week of June. But this time, the monsoon entered the State nearly 10 days ahead.

The monsoon remained vigorous, with the State witnessing a 124-year-old record rainfall in May. The State received a total rainfall of 218.7 mm during May as against the normal of 73.6 mm. In May alone, all three hydel reservoirs got a cumulative inflow that could help generate 338.65 MUs of power as against the inflow equivalent of 34.93 MUs during the corresponding period last year.

The inflow has further increased in June, with the cumulative inflow from June 1 to 19 touching an equivalent of 766.53 MUs as against 122.918 MUs during the previous year.

Where they stand

The break-up of the present hydel storage shows that the water level at Linganamakki, which is built across the Sharavati in Sagar taluk of Shivamogga district, has touched 1,772 ft as against the previous year's level of 1,744.9 ft and the maximum level of 1,819 ft. Presently, the reservoir has been receiving inflow at the rate of 22,905 cusecs. The inflow to this reservoir during the corresponding period of previous year was at 1,369 cusecs.

Supa dam, built across the Kali near Ganeshgudi in Uttara Kannada district, has a water level of 531.34 m as against the previous year's 525.99 m and the full reservoir level of 564 m. The dam is witnessing an inflow at the rate of 12,011 cusecs as against last year's 1,873 cusecs.

Mani dam, built across the Varahi river in Hosanagar taluk of Shivamogga district, has a water level of 580.13 m as against the previous year's level of 571.82 m and full reservoir level of 594 m. The inflow to this reservoir is at 2,028 cusecs as against the previous year's rate of 425 cusecs.

Hydel's key role

Officials in the Energy Department point out that there is still a long way to go as the hydel storage needs to reach its full potential. But the forecast of good rainfall has made them hopeful. They say healthy hydel storage would go a long way in effective management of the peak-hour power supply in the State and also make power supply economical.

Congress MLA B.R. Patil's audio clip flags corruption in house allotments

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An audio clip, allegedly featuring a conversation between Congress MLA for Aland and Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission Deputy Chairman B.R. Patil and Sarfaraz, a person believed to be an associate of Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, has caused embarrassment to the ruling Congress in the State.

In the clip, Mr. Patil, who had earlier complained to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah against the functioning of Ministers, addresses the other person as "Sarfaraz". The MLA informs him about the large-scale corruption in the distribution of houses under the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Ltd. and is heard alleging that houses were allotted in exchange for bribes. The MLA is heard alleging that recommendation letters from MLAs were ignored in the district and houses were allotted to those who had paid bribes.

B.R. Patil

BJP demands Zameer Ahmed Khan's resignation and a judicial inquiry based on the contents of the audio clip

During the conversation, Sarfaraz is heard promising strict action against those involved in the alleged housing scam. Mr. Patil hits back at Sarfaraz and states that if the information is made public, "the government will be shaken".

The Opposition BJP has demanded the resignation of Mr. Khan and a judicial inquiry led by a High Court judge based on the mobile call audio possessed by Mr. Patil.

Mr. Patil told *The Hindu* on Friday that corruption was rampant in the distribution of houses constructed under the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Ltd. in Aland, Afzalpur, Hosapete, and many other constituencies. He claimed some officials were seeking a bribe of ₹25,000 for allotting a house. Mr. Patil admitted that the audio clip was his own conversation with Sarfaraz.

Earlier case

The Congress, which came to power alleging 40% commission in the previous BJP government, now appears to be on the back foot. Earlier, Yelburga MLA and Chief Minister's Economic Adviser Basavaraj Rayaraddi had said that Karnataka is "number one in corruption", embarrassing the government.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok, citing Mr. Patil's audio clip, said Mr. Khan had no moral right to continue in office and demanded his immediate resignation. He said on X that Mr. Rayaraddi's statement has now been reinforced by Mr. Patil.

Mr. Ashok said Mr. Patil has alleged that 950 houses were distributed in the Aland Assembly constituency in exchange for bribes. The BJP leader urged the MLA to disclose the details of the corruption and bribery taking place in the Housing Department and to file a complaint with the Lokayukta.

Responding to this, Union Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy said, "I am not surprised by this. This has been happening continuously. To get a site, bribes and commissions are being given. This is happening across every department of the State government."

Meanwhile, when a question was asked about Mr. Patil's accusation, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar said he was not aware of the development.

Cabinet meeting at Nandi Hills now on July 2

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress government has decided to hold its State Cabinet meeting at Nandi Hills in Chickballapur district on July 2, according to a notification.

Earlier, the Cabinet meeting scheduled to be held at Nandi Hills on June 19 was shifted to the Vidhana Soudha in Benglauru following a plea by MLAs and Ministers of Chickballapur and Kolar districts that the meeting in the region should announce a financial package for addressing infrastructural needs, drinking water issue, and mango growers' crisis.

On Thursday, it was announced that the Cabinet meeting of July 17 would be held at Nandi Hills. However, now, it has been advanced to July 2.

BJP campaign to mark Emergency anniversary

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To mark the 50th year of the declaration of the Emergency in the country, the Opposition BJP has decided to launch a public awareness campaign from June 22 to 30 in the State.

Announcing this at a press conference in Bengaluru, BJP MLC C.T. Ravi said the campaign would be inaugurated by former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda on June 24.

BJP veteran B.S. Yediyurappa, who had been arrested during the Emergency, would participate in the programme along with several others, he said.

Those arrested during the Emergency period would not only recall their experiences but also visit the cells where they had been imprisoned, Mr. Ravi said.

Centre adopting holistic, inclusive approach to public health: Amit Shah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the health sector in the country had seen a "remarkable transformation" in the last 11 years, with the Centre adopting a "holistic and inclusive" approach in addressing public health issues.

Speaking after inaugurating the Bengaluru campus of Adichunchanagiri University and BGS Medical College and Hospital in Bengaluru North taluk, Mr. Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the health sector had significantly benefited the people, especially the marginalised and weaker sections of society.

High cost of treatment

"The Prime Minister had said in Gujarat 26 years ago that the main challenge faced by the poor is illness and the high cost of treatment. The administration has to make healthcare accessible to the poor. I can say with pride today that after becoming the Prime Minister, Mr. Modi fulfilled this promise by providing 60 crore people from the poor and weaker sections of society with free medical treatment of up to ₹5 lakh under the Ayushman Bharat scheme," Mr. Shah said, adding that health had been addressed holistically.

"While toilets for 12 crore households have been built, the Fit India Movement was launched to inculcate a healthy lifestyle among people. Various other initiatives such as International Yoga Day, Mission Indradhanush to provide free vaccinations, and Poshan Abhiyan to provide care for mothers and children were introduced. Through the promotion of generic medicines, people are now able to buy medicines at just 20% of their original cost at 15,000 outlets," he said.

New facility: Union Home Minister Amit Shah looking at a model during the inauguration of the Bengaluru campus of the Adichunchanagiri University on Friday. Nirmalanandanatha Swami of Adichunchanagiri Mutt and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy are present. ANI

The Union Minister pointed out that the number of All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have grown from seven in 2014 to 23 now and medical colleges from 387 to 780 in the country. MBBS seats have increased from 51,000 to 1.8 lakh, and postgraduate medical seats from 31,000 to 74,000.

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil said the State has the highest number of medical education seats in the country. "There are 70 medical colleges in the State, including 24 government colleges," he said.

"Allowing private participation in medical education was a landmark decision. By establishing engineering colleges, we created an ecosystem that helped Bengaluru emerge as the IT capital. However, there is still a shortage of doctors. Around 24 lakh students appear for NEET each year, competing for only one lakh seats," he said. "India must promote the establishment of more medical colleges, and I have conveyed this to Mr. Amit Shah."

Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy, Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti V. Somanna, and Nirmalanandanatha Swami of Adichunchanagiri Mutt were present.

Quota in housing in line with Centre's policy: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the Opposition BJP continued to attack the ruling Congress in Karnataka over increasing reservation for minorities in housing schemes from 10% to 15%, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has underlined that the decision was in line with the Union government's guidelines.

Centre's direction

Hitting back at the BJP in a statement on Friday, he said, "This is based on the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities (2019), which clearly directs all Central and State implementing agencies to earmark 15% of physical and financial targets for minorities wherever possible. This guideline was issued by the BJP-led Union government and has been in force for years. If this was unconstitutional or appeasement, why did the Union government ask all States to follow it? Why is it being implemented under the Central schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana?"

Calling the BJP's response "both hypocritical and politically motivated", the Chief Minister said the new quota works within the unreserved category and does not affect SC, ST, or OBC reservations in any manner, as claimed by the BJP. "The decision is legally sound and has been cleared by the Law Department after a thorough review," he said.

Siddaramaiah

Explaining the reason for the decision, he said, "Our decision does not grant blanket enhancement of quota across the State. It only addresses a specific implementation challenge. In many panchayats where the minority population is less than 10%, the mandated 10% earmarking could not be utilised. To ensure optimal use of the allocated targets and avoid lapses, we have allowed the gap from such panchayats to be reallocated to those with a higher minority population, subject to a cap of 15%. This is an administrative adjustment within the unreserved category."

The Chief Minister said that over 34,000 additional minority families, most of them landless and in need of housing, will benefit from this decision in the current year. "Where no minority applicants are found in a panchayat, the unutilised share will be reallocated to where there is a higher need, ensuring that not a single house remains unbuilt due to technical rigidities," he said, urging the BJP "to rise above narrow political calculations and support measures that truly uplift the poor".

BJP hits out at State govt. over quota

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday accused the Congress government in Karnataka of providing religion-based reservation in its housing schemes in violation of the Constitution for vote bank politics.

On Thursday, the State Cabinet decided to hike the reservation for minorities under housing schemes from 10% to 15%.

"The Congress government of Karnataka has approved 15% Muslim reservation in various housing schemes. There is no mention of religious reservation in our Constitution and the Supreme Court has also declared it unconstitutional. People who roam around with a copy of the Constitution in their pockets are the ones who violate the Constitution the most today. Religious reservation in housing schemes is the biggest example of the same," said BJP MP and spokesperson Sambit Patra.

Questions rationale

Questioning the rationale behind the religion-based reservation, Mr. Patra alleged that the Congress was trying to break the social fabric and was inviting "a long-term disaster for short-term political gains".

National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences
(Institute of National Importance)
PB No.2900, Hosur Road, Bengaluru-560 029. Karnataka.
Ph: 080-26995010/11 e-mail: pro@nimhans.ac.in

No: NIMH/PRO/Horti/Sakalawara/Tender/2025-26 Date: 20.06.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed Tenders are invited from the Public for grant of right to harvest the different varieties of Coconuts and Fruits from the well grown trees in the Sakalawara Campus, NIMHANS, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban Dist. for a period of **TWO YEARS from 03.07.2025 to 02.07.2027.** The last date for submission of the tender form is **01.07.2025 upto 3.00 p.m.**

For further details please visit NIMHANS website: www.nimhans.ac.in

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPR/CP/1360/MAA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, CHAMARAJANAGAR
Office of the Deputy Director, Department of Social Welfare
DC Office, Room No. 121, Chamarajanagar
Email : dswochanagards@gmail.com Phone : 08226-222855

No. DD:SWD:CHN:CR:2025-26 Date : 16-06-2025

Department of Social Welfare, Chamarajanagar District, KPPP Mentor Re-Tender Invited for the provision of Department of Social Welfare, Chamarajanagar, Hostels Food Re-Tender Maximum Estimated Rs.1550.00 lakhs offers in the tender invited by KPP Portal, which can be downloaded online on 12-06-2025 to 14-07-2025 Till 5.00 PM, Last Date for Submission of Tenders : 14-07-2025 Till 5.00 PM, Bid Opening Date : 15-07-2025 After 5.30 PM and more Further changes to this notification will only be published by E-Procurement.

For more Information / Details Visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in / Website or Contact Department of Social Welfare Office, Chamarajanagar.

Sd/- Deputy Director
Dept. of Social Welfare
Chamarajanagar

DIPR : CHANAGAR:157:2025-26

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, KARNATAKA
4th 'T' Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru – 560 041,
Ph No.080-26961928 Fax-080-26961929

No:RGU/PROC/ILL/117/2024-25 (Call-2) Date: 19.06.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for Dedicated Internet Leased Lines to RGUHS. More details on the services are provided in the attached Terms of Reference. **(Tender Number: RGUHSK/2024-25/SE0021/Call-2)**

Tender document available for downloaded	19/06/2025 12:06
Last date for receipt of Tender	27/06/2025 17:30
Opening of Technical Bid	30/06/2025 11:00
Opening of Financial Bid	01/07/2025 11:30
Place of Opening of Tender	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru

More details can be fetched from website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

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DIPR/SI/1341/2025-26

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INBRIEF

Four Maharashtra men held in ganja case in Hyderabad

Four men from Maharashtra were arrested by the Special Operations Team (SOT) of the LB Nagar Zone and the Hayathnagar police for smuggling 166 kilograms of ganja worth ₹50 lakh through Hyderabad. The accused were identified as Vikas Baban Salve, 30, a painter from Sangamner, Ahmednagar; Ranganath Yurajn Sadve, 36 and Amol Narayan Borde, 26, both farmers from Aurangabad; and Sagar Gajanan Khandebharad, 29, a Railway employee from Buldhana.

Banakacherla row: Telangana CM ready for talks with A.P.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has expressed his readiness to hold talks with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on the inter-State water disputes, particularly over the controversial Banakacherla project. Mr. Reddy said on Friday that he preferred dialogue over confrontation and inter-State water disputes can only be resolved through mutual understanding and cooperation.

Nilambur byelection saw final voter turnout of 75.27%

Nilambur Assembly constituency in Malappuram district of Kerala saw a voter turnout of 75.27%, according to the latest update from the Chief Electoral Officer. The counting of votes for the byelection will be held on June 23, Monday. The strong room where the electronic voting machines are kept will be opened at 7.30 a.m. in the presence of the candidates' agents. The counting of votes will begin at 8 a.m., Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Rathan U. Kelkar said here on Friday.

Row over Bharat Mata image spills onto streets in Kerala

ABVP activists stage a black flag protest against Minister; police use water cannons and iron barricades to prevent an SFI march to Raj Bhavan, forcing the activists to stage a sit-in on road

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Raj Bhavan-Kerala government row over the contentious use of a saffron-flag-bearing image of Bharat Mata sitting astride a lion at a State event spilt onto the streets on Friday.

On Thursday night, the police stopped a set of Akhila Bharathiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) workers from storming General Education Minister V. Sivankutty's official residence. However, unrest returned to the streets on Friday, with ABVP activists staging a black flag protest against Mr. Sivankutty near the Secretariat here. The demonstration caught the police off-guard, who scuffled with the ABVP workers and detained several of them. Mr. Sivankutty, who walked out of Raj Bhavan in protest against the use of the portrait in an official function, reiterated his position that the controversial image was a heraldic device used by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to "broadcast its Hindu majoritarian ideology."

Later in the day, the police used water cannons and iron barricades to prevent a Students Federation of India (SFI) march from approaching Raj Bhavan's gates, forcing the activists to stage a sit-in on the road.

The CPI(M) has accused Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar of crossing the Constitutional line. CPI (M) State secretary M.V. Govindan told reporters on Friday that Mr. Sivankutty had maintained the Constitutional line by walking out of a State function where Mr. Arlekar paid obeisance to the image of a "woman holding a saffron flag," a ubiquitous heraldic device used by the RSS.

SFI activists raise slogans during a protest near Raj Bhavan over the Bharat Mata portrait row in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. PTI

Kerala to include Governor's role in school syllabus

The General Education department will modify the higher secondary syllabus to include the Governor's role, responsibilities, and limitations. V. Sivankutty said that it was socially imperative that students learn about the official role of the Governor as the *de jure* head of State.

Sun TV denies Dayanidhi's allegations

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Responding to reports of DMK MP and former Union Minister Dayanidhi Maran issuing a legal notice to his elder brother Kalanithi Maran, the chairman of Sun TV Network, and others, the network on Friday said the allegations were incorrect, misleading, speculative, defamatory, and not supported by facts or law.

"This is in reference to the news articles appearing in various media in relation to certain matters between the Promoter of Sun TV Network Limited and his family member. The alleged matter dates back 22 years, when the company was a closely held private limited company," Sun TV said in a stock exchange filing.

"We wish to inform that all acts have been done in accordance with legal obligations and the same had been duly vetted by concerned intermediaries before the public issue of the Company. We are not aware of any negotiations/ events towards settlement in the promoter's family," the statement said.

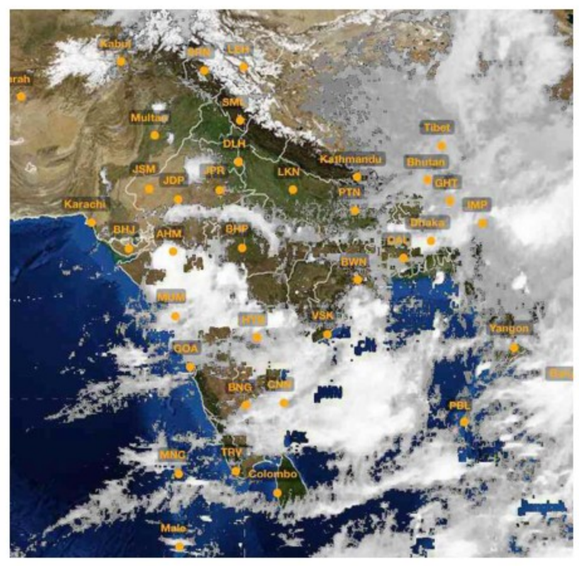
The matters alleged in the articles do not have any bearing on the business of the company or its day-to-day functioning and being the family matter of the promoter are purely personal in nature, it added.

Sun TV shares, which were down by 4% in the morning trade, pared some losses after the company's statement.

The stock closed at ₹606.80, down by 1.09%. On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), the company's shares closed at ₹605.75, down by 1.05%.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Bihar, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	12	32.2	25.4	Kozhikode	5	32.5	25.2
Ahmedabad	—	34.0	27.0	Kurnool	—	35.4	26.8
Aizawl	0.9	30.1	20.6	Lucknow	9	35.0	25.0
Allahabad	62	33.6	24.0	Madurai	—	40.7	26.1
Bengaluru	—	30.2	21.2	Mangaluru	11.1	29.8	24.6
Bhopal	7	30.7	23.8	Mumbai	32	32.0	26.0
Bhubaneswar	—	33.1	27.0	Mysuru	—	29.0	20.0
Chandigarh	9.7	34.2	26.7	New Delhi	—	34.8	26.8
Chennai	—	39.6	28.6	Patna	15	30.5	26.1
Coimbatore	—	32.3	23.2	Port Blair	11.1	29.8	25.2
Dehradun	12.4	33.7	23.8	Puducherry	—	37.6	27.0
Gangtok	20	20.6	18.0	Pune	26.4	30.4	24.4
Goa	5	32.4	26.2	Raipur	0.8	31.4	24.8
Guwahati	0.2	33.0	27.3	Ranchi	77	26.0	22.1
Hubballi	—	29.0	23.0	Shillong	5	24.4	17.2
Hyderabad	—	34.7	24.6	Shimla	6	24.4	21.6
Imphal	7.2	31.2	23.0	Srinagar	—	35.5	21.8
Jaipur	2.3	28.3	25.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.5	24.9
Kochi	20	30.2	24.6	Tiruchi	—	39.1	27.4
Kohima	3	24.6	19.4	Vijayawada	—	38.3	28.0
Kolkata	3.6	30.6	26.0	Visakhapatnam	—	33.6	28.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.27	..30	30	54	...151	
Bengaluru	.12	4	21	51	...195	
Chennai	...5	7	29	40	...127	
Delhi	...8	..47	45	73	...130	
Hyderabad	.22	..14	34	78	88	
Kolkata	...9	..51	29	47	51	
Lucknow	102	..12	..9	50	47	
Mumbai	.44	..16	46	23	73	
Pune	..—	..48	45	34	45	
Visakhapatnam	.31	..65	29	63	...129	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nandesari, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 228 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 7

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking) Together We Can
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Regional office Bangalore Central,
Bangalore - 560001.
Phone No.080 - 2531 0125.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered post have been delivered and not acknowledged by them so got return to branch. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged gold ornaments securities on or before **26.06.2025** failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at below mentioned respective Branch premises at 3.00 pm on **27.06.2025** or on any other convenient date without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the Bank. This Notice is also a notice to the borrowers and applies to Legal Heirs of the deceased borrowers, if any. The Branch Incumbent reserves the Right to cancel / postpone the Auction or any parts of the Auction without any Notice & assigning any reason.

Sl No	Branch Name	Gold Loan No.	Name of the Borrower	Address of the Borrower	Gross weight gram	Contact Details
1	SAMPANGIRAMNAGAR	180269072733 164025532516 164028797079	SALOMEN JOSEPH	S/o Late Edwin No.7/1, 15th Cross, 4th Main Road, S R Nagar, Bangalore-560027	9.30 5.80 4.40	7903815156 080-22485780
2	J C ROAD	164064153844 164064151454 164064151892	SINDHU C P	Wife of S Thangavel No 31, 2nd Floor, Rangappa Street, Chikka Mavalli, Basavanagudi Bengaluru-560004	31.90 20.70 12.10	9449860021 080-22224489

Date : 20.06.2025
Place : Bangalore

Branch Manager
Canara Bank

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, KALABURAGI
Beside Mini Vidhan Soudha, Station Main road, Kalaburagi-585102
Email: commissionergda@gmail.com

NO : KUDA/S.DISTRIBUTION/HAGARGA/50:50/2022-23 DATE: 20-06-2025

NOTIFICATION

Applications will be distributed during the office hours of the Authority from Date: **23-06-2025 to 19-07-2025**

Filled in applications will be received at the office of the Authority during office hours upto Date : **22-07-2025**

DR. QAMAR-UL-ISLAM HAGARGA 50:50 FARMERS PARTNESHIP NEW ALLOTMENT OF PLOTS IN HOUSING SCHEME

2 km from Main Road of Hagaraga village in Kalaburgi taluk of Kalaburgi district. Hagaraga Housing Project is being developed by the Kalaburgi Urban Development Authority along the Kalaburgi-Hagaraga State Highway which is in the currently under development, Applications are invited from the public for allotment of plots with the objective of providing good roads, street lights, internal drainage facilities, drinking water supply, new model colorful main gate and well-furnished official plots to the people of the city.

DETAILS OF PLOTS PROPOSED TO BE ALLOTTED

SL. NO.	AREA IN Meters	No of Plots	Cost of Plot	Regis-tration fees	Initial deposit with application		Appli-cation Fees
					Ex-servicemen belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes Family members of deceased servicemen and members of Central Armed Forces, Transferred Defense Personnel and Husbands and Wives of Defense Personnel who died while serving % of the value of the deposit to be deposited. 3%	10 percent % of land value for others.	
1	12x21Mtr	08	21,00,000/-	1000/-	63,000/-	2,10,000/-	500/-
2	12x18Mtr	102	18,00,000/-	1000/-	54,000/-	1,80,000/-	500/-
3	9x12Mtr	373	9,00,000/-	500/-	27,000/-	90,000/-	300/-
4	6x9 Mtr (EWS)	234	2,25,000/-	300/-	6,800/-	22,500/-	200/-
5	6x9 Mtr (Sc/St)	52	1,12,000/-	200/-	3,400/-	-	100/-

As per Karnataka Urban Development Authority Notification No. NAE 12 TTP 2014 Dated: 12-02-2021 reservation for various categories has been fixed.

Sd/- Commisioner
Kalaburgi Urban Development Authority

Sd/- Chairman,
Kalaburgi Urban Development Authority

DIPR/Kalaburagi/232/KSMC&A/2025-26

Government of Maharashtra
Labour Department

Maharashtra Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board
MMTC House, 5th Floor, C-22, E Block, BKC, Bandra (E). Mumbai-51
Telephone No. (022) 26572631/32 Email-bocwwboardmaha@gmail.com

Notice for e-Tender

Selecting Agency to "Supply, Delivery and Distribution of Safety Kit for Registered Workers of Maharashtra Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board in Maharashtra"

Maharashtra Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, Labour Department, Government of Maharashtra invites proposals from reputed and experienced companies/ firms to participate in the competitive bidding process for Selecting Agency to "Supply, Delivery and Distribution of Safety Kit for Registered Workers of Maharashtra Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board in Maharashtra

For the detailed Tender document, interested bidders should visit **https://mahatenders.gov.in**

Tender submission would be online and the deadline to submit the proposals is **14.07.2025 till 06.55 PM**

Date: 21.06.2025
Place: Mumbai

Sd/-
(Vivek Kumbhar)
Secretary cum CEO,
Maharashtra Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, Mumbai

DGIPR/2025-2026/1276

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SOIL INVESTIGATION DIVISION, ADVANCE PLANNING,
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT,RANCHI
NirupanBhawan,3rd Floor,Room No. 401,56-Set,Doranda,Ranchi-834002

e-Procurement (Very Short Tender Notice)
Letter of Invitation (LOI) No.-13/2025-26
2nd Call
e-Tender Ref No:–RCD/SID/AP/RAN/13/2025-26 Date:- 19.06.2025

1	Name Of Work	**Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report for widening & Strengthening/Reconstruction of Road from Bodma more to Bengal Chainpur border via Bodma-Palkudri-Neemdih Mayurdubi-Lakhipur-Chirda-Gamhariya including replacement New Proposal of Culverts, Bridges, ROB's, RUB's, Complete Land Acquisition Plan including Ownership details all complete as per latest guidelines, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Proposal, Forest Diversion Proposal and Utility Shifting Proposal in details etc. as required by the Department (If any) under Bokaro District in the State of Jharkhand. (Tetative Length 17 K.m.)** *Empanelled consultant with RCD under category-I vide letter No. 3063(S) WE Dated 22.08.2022are allowed to Bid.
2	Tentative Length	17 K.m
3	Period of Completion of Work	60 Days
4	Cost of Tender documents	Rs 5,000/- (Five Thousand) only. Non refundable Fee.Tender fee will be recivedthrough online mode only. The quotationers have to deposit a fixed amount of Rs 30,000 as Earnest Money. As per the Departmental Letter no.-4652(S) dated 06.10.2023, cost of tender document and Earnest Money Deposit be received in online mode only through e-procurement (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) by internet banking/NEFT/RTGS facility as per Standard Operating sistim Procedure (SOP) issued by Information Technology & e-Governance Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no 120 dated 03.10.2023
5	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering(http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
6	Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website	23.06.2025,10:30 AM
7	Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	02.07.2025 12:00PM
8	Last Date/Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD	02.07.2025 12:00PM
9	Date and Time of Bid opening	03.07.2025 12:30 PM
10	Bid validity	120 days
11	Bid Submission Address	Chief Engineer(Communication),Road Construction Department,1st Floor, Engineer Hostel No.-2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
12	Designation and Contact no. of Tender inviting Officer	Executive Engineer, Soil Investigation DivisionAdvance Planning,RCD, Ranchi Mob-9905660677.
13	PR No.-	353960 Road (2025-26) D

Note:-Only e-Tender shall be accepted.

Sd./-
(Ravi Shankar Pravakar)
Executive Engineer,
Soil Investigation Division, Advance Planning,
Road Construction Department,Ranchi

PR 355596 (Road) 25-26 (D)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE OF INVITING E-TENDER

DRM (S&T)/ North Western Railway / Jaipur, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite E-Tenders from registered tenderer/bidders for the following work. **Name of work with its location:** Comprehensive Annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of Data loggers, RTUS, COA. SPAU of Efftronics make and DLMC equipment's for three years in Jaipur Division, **Approx. Cost of work (Rs):** ₹4,63,68,700.89, **Bid security (Rs):** ₹381900.00, **Date & Time for Submission up to on www.ireps.gov.in:** 14.07.2025 Up to 15.00 hrs, **Website Particulars & Notice board location:** www.ireps.gov.in and DRM office/NWR/Jaipur

714-PS/25

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-Tender)

On the behalf of President of India e-Tenders are invited by the CWM, Carriage Workshop, NWR, Jodhpur. **Name of Work with its Location:** Supply, Installation & Commissioning of CCTV system with a warranty period of 03 years at Carriage Repair Workshop, Jodhpur, North Western Railway, **Approximate Cost of work:** Rs. 2218836/- (Rs. Twenty Two Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Six Only), **Earnest Money to be deposited:** Rs. 44400/- (Rs. Forty Four Thousand Four Hundred Only), **Last date and time for Submission of e-tender and Opening of e-tender:** 11.07.2025 Up to 15:00 Hrs. and 11.07.2025 after 15:00 Hrs., **Website from e-tender forms can be obtained:** www.ireps.gov.in, **Address of the NIT issuing Office:** Office of the CWM, Carriage Workshop, NWR, Jodhpur-342001 (Rajasthan)

713-PS/25

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Group,
ISRO HQ, Antariksh Bhavan, New BEL Road,
Bengaluru -560 094 Ph:080-22172476/2479/2033
Fax No.080-23513126

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, online item rate tenders are invited through e-Tendering for the following work:

Title of work	**External development & auxiliary works to the proposed VVIP accommodation at DOS housing colony, Jalahalli, Bengaluru-Part 'A' (Preliminary works)**
Tender Notice No.	**CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/C/03/P/VVIP-JH/ 2025-26 Dated: 17.06.2025**
Estimated cost put to tender	**₹77.32 Lakhs**
Period of completion in months	**Three (03) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From: 18:10 hrs on 17.06.2025 To: 23:59 hrs on 29.06.2025**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**Up to: 15:30 hrs on 03.07.2025**
Due date and time of opening of tenders [Technical Bid]	**16:00 hrs onwards on 03.07.2025**
Earnest Money Deposit [EMD]	**₹1,54,640/-**

For eligibility criteria and other details, Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice inviting Tender (NIT) on websites: **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** at tender free view. Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and Tender documents may be downloaded from e-tendering website: **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG, ISRO HQ

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Group,
ISRO Head Quarters, Antariksh Bhavan, New BEL Road,
Bengaluru-560094 Phone: 080-2217 2476/2479/2033,
Fax No.: 080-2351 3126

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, online item rate tenders are invited through e-Tendering for the following work:

Title of work	**External development & auxiliary works to the proposed VVIP accommodation at DOS Housing Colony, Jalahalli, Bengaluru-Part 'B' (Civil works)**
Tender Notice No.	**CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/C/04/P/ VVIP-JH/2025-26 Dtd: 18.06.2025**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 203.20 Lakhs**
Period of Completion	**Six (06) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From: 18:10 Hrs on 18.06.2025 To: 23:59 Hrs on 06.07.2025**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**Up to 15:30 Hrs on 10.07.2025**
Due date and time for opening of tenders (Technical Bid)	**16:00 Hrs onwards on 10.07.2025**
EMD	**Rs. 4,06,400/-**

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on websites **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** at tender free view. Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and Tender documents may be downloaded from e-tendering website **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head CMG, ISRO HQ

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THE HINDU

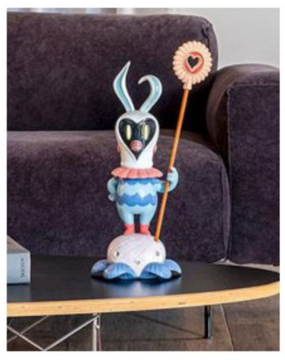
COVER

Another porcelain paradise from Lladró

The Spanish brand celebrates the 25th anniversary of its 'Spirit of India' collection, and a new boutique in the capital

Sujatha Shankar Kumar

Lladró's 25th anniversary in India coincides with the opening of their ninth boutique in the country. This new space is at New Delhi's The Chanakya, known to house other luxury brands such as Hermès, Tiffany & Co. and Ravissant. And as with other Lladró addresses around the world, this too is a phantasmagorical world of porcelain, where innovation and imagination have catapulted a 12th century material to brave new heights.



(Left) Chanakya store; (top) Soul Rider by Valencian artist Dulk; and Firefly lamps (LLADRÓ)

Meet the icons

At this Mediterranean-style 600 sq. ft. boutique designed by Puerto Rican architect Héctor Ruiz-Velázquez, meet Haute École, a glistening white purebred horse with sinewy muscles rearing forth under an exquisite Seasons chandelier with dozens of blue and white elements in porcelain and crystal. On a wall display are multiple versions of The Guest – a whimsical character by Spanish artist and designer Jaime Hayon – now a beloved icon of modern porcelain. While entry-level fragrance candles start at ₹6,000, a Lladró handcrafted object can cost crores of rupees.

Ever since three brothers in the Spanish village of Almàssera began their uncharted journey in 1953 to reimagine handcrafted porcelain, Lladró has captivated audiences worldwide.

Creative director Nieves Contreras says, "The creation of a Lladró piece is a highly artisanal and time-intensive process. Anywhere from five to over 100 moulds may be required depending on the complexity of the piece." While single-firing has replaced triple, and their palette is expansive with 4,000 shades, the real "porcelain revolution" has been about forging new paths to stay relevant, says Rushil Kapoor, marketing and PR manager at Lladró India.

The magic of India

Lladró's organised entry into India as a joint venture, Spa Lifestyle Pvt Ltd., paved the way for good fortunes. India is Lladró's third largest market. In its 70th year, its second-largest store globally was launched on MG Road in New Delhi.

2025 is also the 25th anniversary of the Spirit of India, fashioned after Hindu traditions. Ana Rodríguez Nogueiras, global CEO of Lladró, says, "Each creation aims to become a meaningful link between Spanish artistry and India's rich cultural and spiritual traditions." The fan following for their intricate figurines – Ram, Sita, Hanuman, the Mudras, Sai Baba and Goddess Lakshmi – is spread across the Indian diaspora in the U.S., U.K., Canada, Hong Kong and Singapore.

In India, Lladró loyalty goes back many generations. Take entrepreneur and art collector Pinky Reddy for instance, an avowed patron who bought a Lord Balaji figurine and had been to the Valencia factory when she was just 13. With the genial Lord Ganesha in many poses equally popular amongst westerners, Lladró's Indian footprint is firmly established. "Revenue from India contributes to 13% of Lladró's global revenue, of which 38% comes from Spirit of India," says Nikhil Lamba, CEO Lladró India.

An eye on sustainability

Sustainability requires not just innovative adaptation for the times, but also future foresight, along with a deep concern for the planet's ecosystems. Lladró embodies all three. The three elements of porcelain have remained constant – kaolinite, quartz and feldspar – and so has Lladró's ideal: to make collectables of lasting emotive significance. While classics are still a staple, designer-led aesthetics have captured the market. Lamba says, "Earlier, patrons bought classic glazed sculptures with florals and subtle colours. Now, they prefer contemporary and playful designs in bold, striking colours."

Contreras, who has purposefully steered global trends, says, "Achieving perfection in porcelain is always a demanding task, no matter the size or type of piece. One of the main challenges is its unpredictability – it behaves almost like a living material." Lladró's creative collaborations such as Ephemeral Treasures, with renowned Valencian artist Dulk's portrayal of fantastical animals, raises awareness about the beauty of nature, acting as a reminder of the planet's fragility.

Let there be light

In 2013, Lladró expanded into lighting. The Chanakya boutique is showcasing a wide range, including chandeliers, table and floor lamps, pendants, and wireless lamps. You can find the classic Ivy & Seed chandelier in white, as well as the 2022 NYC x Design Awards winner in the chandelier category – the Seasons Chandelier (Winter) in cool blue hues. The portable wireless Firefly Lamp is the proven star of the show, lending its glow to tablescapes, verandas, desk tops, and gifting. Contreras says, "You can now customise your lamp at the Firefly Bar in the new boutique, putting together elements of your choice and colour." And you can take it home in a month, after it's made in the City of Porcelain in Tavernes Blanques, Lladró's only production factory in the world.

The writer is a brand strategist with a background in design from SAIC and NID.

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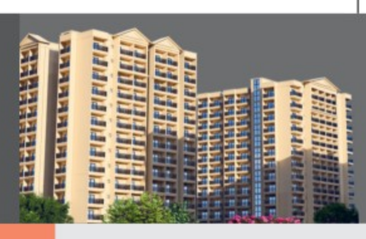
PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/251024/007179 G+14 WHITEFIELD 15 MINS. HOPEFARM METRO STN. ₹ 72.34 L - 1.30 Cr*	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006972 G+4 ELECTRONIC CITY 10 MINS. HOSA ROAD METRO ₹ 62.26 L - 1.24 Cr*	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006973 G+14 BANNERGHATTA NEAR KOPPA GATE ₹ 56.64 - 82.18 Lakhs*	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/290122/004660 G+4 SARJAPURA SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE RD ₹ 43.68 - 48.87 Lakhs*	TRENDING PROJECT 	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/472/PR/250225/007524 G+14 AIRPORT ROAD NAVARATHNA AGRAHARA ₹ 69.87 L - 1.18 Cr*

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No fetters

In *Thug Life* case, Court upholds certified films against extra-judicial bans

In ensuring the screening of the film *Thug Life* – thespian Kamal Haasan plays the lead role – in Karnataka, the Supreme Court of India has unequivocally asserted a fundamental free speech principle that certified films cannot be stifled by protests or a recourse to "hurt sentiments". Following Mr. Haasan's comment in a pre-launch event, that Kannada was born from Tamil (it is factually inaccurate as both languages have been known to share a proto-Dravidian ancestor), the film has faced an extra-judicial ban in Karnataka; the Karnataka High Court had suggested that he apologise. The Supreme Court's directions however repudiate this "moral" position taken by the High Court, bringing into focus the judiciary's role as a guardian of due process. After the film was certified by the CBFC, there should be no fetters on its release, and, therefore, the extra-judicial ban violated the rule of law. The film certification framework, governed by the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and its rules, is designed to safeguard creativity, while maintaining a balance between constitutionally mandated free speech and reasonable restrictions. The CBFC, equipped to vet films with these legal standards, is solely tasked with doing so. Amorphous groups claiming "hurt sentiments" to intimidate a film's release have no role in this. Giving in to such claims risks violating free speech rights and hurting the livelihoods of actors, artists, technicians and workers. The top court rightly characterised extra-judicial bans as a direct infringement on film-makers' constitutionally guaranteed right to freedom of speech and expression.

By emphatically rejecting the extra-judicial ban, the Court has reiterated its positions that maintaining law and order in the face of divergent views is the state's responsibility. It is vital to understand that certified and regulated freedom of speech, as assessed by the CBFC, is distinct from hate speech, which finds no constitutional protection and can be legally restricted. This crucial distinction underscores that legitimate artistic expression, once cleared by the designated authority, deserves state protection. Moving forward, the Court's directions should pave the way for the state to provide institutional safeguards against unofficial bans overriding the CBFC's certification and release. These could include holding theatre owners accountable for unwarranted cancellations of scheduled releases, policing guidelines that distinguish lawful dissent from illegal intimidation and also allowing for citizens to watch a certified film without fear.

Quantum challenge

Administrative reform is essential for India to make advances

Scientists from IIT-Delhi and the DRDO recently demonstrated a key advance in quantum cybersecurity that stands to revolutionise how the world will communicate in the future. The world's secrets are currently stored and communicated via channels that are protected by difficult mathematical problems. Over the years, an increasing amount of computing power available to certain actors has forced these problems to become difficult and nigh-uncrackable. The imminence of quantum computing requires this paradigm to change because quantum computers can (at least on paper) solve problems currently out of reach of the most powerful conventional supercomputers. Quantum cybersecurity is one prong of this change, promising to protect communication channels irrespective of the computing power available to malicious actors. The IIT-Delhi and DRDO team successfully demonstrated a quantum key-distribution scheme through one kilometre of free space on the institute's campus. Such a technology allows two individuals (or stations) located a kilometre apart to securely access messages they send each other. If an eavesdropper tries to intercept any message, instantaneous changes in the keys the individuals use to decrypt the messages will reveal the channel has been compromised, and in a way that the eavesdropper cannot prevent. If scaled up to include satellites, the technology could allow stations anywhere in India to exchange information through a quantum network without fear of being compromised.

Herein lies the rub. Quantum communications is one of the four themes of the National Quantum Mission, approved in 2023 with an outlay of ₹6,003 crore until 2031. Many of the same problems assailing fundamental research in India have already beset research under the Mission, however. A small fraction of the outlay has been disbursed thus far even as venture capital flow into startups remains trivial. Scientists have complained that just-in-time funding, absence of single-window clearances, and documentation requirements have increased the duration of projects. There are persistent foreign hardware and software dependencies: materials required for specific use-cases, such as cryostats and sensors, need to be fabricated abroad while most quantum software stacks are currently implemented by multinational companies. Government pay does not match global offers and lack of timely access to resources has forced researchers to accept short-term contracts and rent equipment. In fact, India's commitment, itself down from the ₹8,000 crore announced in 2020, is dwarfed by those of the U.S. and China, which are five- and 20-times higher, respectively. If the demonstration at IIT-Delhi is to scale, the government cannot simply 'clip on' scientific talent and technological and economic opportunity to existing infrastructure. Administrative reform is essential.

It is still not too late for India's voice to be heard

Sonia Gandhi
is the Chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party

On June 13, 2025, the world has, once again, witnessed the dangerous consequences of unilateral militarism when Israel launched a deeply troubling and unlawful strike against Iran and its sovereignty.

The Indian National Congress has condemned these bombings and targeted assassinations on Iranian soil, which represent a dangerous escalation with grave regional and global consequences. As with so many of Israel's recent actions, including its brutal and disproportionate campaign in Gaza, this operation was executed with utter disregard for civilian lives and regional stability. These actions will only deepen instability and sow the seeds of further conflict.

That such an attack should come at a time when diplomatic efforts between Iran and the United States were showing signs of promise makes it all the more distressing. Five rounds of negotiations had already taken place this year, with a sixth that was scheduled for June. And, as recently as in March 2025, the Director of National Intelligence of the United States, Tulsi Gabbard, clearly testified to Congress that Iran was not pursuing a nuclear weapons programme, and that its Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei had not authorised its resumption since its suspension in 2003.

Israel under the dispensation now

It is important to remember that the current Israeli leadership, under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has a long and unfortunate record of undermining peace and nurturing extremism. His government's continuing expansion of illegal settlements, its alliances with ultra-nationalist factions, and its obstruction of the two-state solution have not only deepened the suffering of the Palestinian people but also pushed the broader region toward perpetual conflict.

Indeed, history reminds us that Mr. Netanyahu helped fan the flames of hatred that culminated in the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995, ending one of the most hopeful peace initiatives between Israelis and Palestinians.

Given this record, it is not surprising that Mr. Netanyahu would choose escalation over engagement. What is deeply regrettable is that the U.S. President Donald Trump – who once spoke out against America's endless wars and the influence of the military-industrial complex – now appears willing to follow this destructive path. He himself has repeatedly pointed out how wilfully false claims about Iraq possessing weapons of mass destruction led to a costly war that destabilised the region and caused immense destruction in Iraq.

> New Delhi's silence on the devastation in Gaza and the hostilities against Iran is a disturbing departure from its moral and diplomatic traditions

Therefore, Mr. Trump's statement on June 17, dismissing his own intelligence chief's assessment and claiming that Iran was "very close" to acquiring nuclear weapons, is deeply disappointing. The world expects and needs leadership that is grounded in facts and driven by diplomacy, and not by force or falsehoods.

No place for double standards

Given the region's fraught history, Israel's security concerns about a nuclear-armed Iran cannot be dismissed. However, there can be no room for double standards. Israel itself is a nuclear weapons state with a long record of military aggression against its neighbours. In contrast, Iran remains a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and had, under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, agreed to stringent limits on uranium enrichment in exchange for sanctions relief. This agreement, backed by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, Germany and the European Union, was verified by international observers, until it was unilaterally abandoned by the United States in 2018. That decision undid years of painstaking diplomacy and once again cast a long shadow over the region's fragile stability.

India, too, has borne the consequences of that rupture. The reimposition of sanctions on Iran severely constrained India's ability to pursue key strategic and economic projects, including the International North-South Transport Corridor and the development of Chabahar Port – initiatives that held the promise of deeper connectivity with Central Asia and more direct access to Afghanistan.

Iran has been a long-standing friend to India and is bound to us by deep civilisational ties. It has a history of steadfast support, including in Jammu and Kashmir at crucial junctures. In 1994, Iran helped block a resolution critical of India at the UN Commission on Human Rights on the Kashmir issue. Indeed, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been much more cooperative with India than its predecessor, the Imperial State of Iran, that had tilted towards Pakistan in the 1965 and 1971 wars.

Meanwhile, India and Israel have also developed strategic relations in recent decades. This unique position gives our country the moral responsibility and the diplomatic leverage to act as a bridge for de-escalation and peace. This is not simply an abstract principle. Lakhs of Indian citizens are living and working across West Asia, which makes peace in the region an issue of vital national interest.

Israel's recent actions against Iran have taken place in an atmosphere of impunity, enabled by near-unconditional support from powerful western nations. While the Indian National Congress unequivocally condemned the absolutely horrific and totally unacceptable attacks by Hamas on October 7, 2023, we cannot remain silent in the face of Israel's catastrophic and disproportionate response. More than 55,000 Palestinians have lost their lives. Entire families, neighbourhoods, and even hospitals have been obliterated. Gaza stands on the brink of famine, and its civilian population continues to suffer unspeakable hardship.

India's disturbing stance

In the face of this humanitarian catastrophe, the Narendra Modi government has all but abandoned India's long-standing and principled commitment to a peaceful two-state solution, one that envisions a sovereign, independent Palestine living side-by-side with Israel in mutual security and dignity.

New Delhi's silence on the devastation in Gaza and now on the unprovoked escalation against Iran reflects a disturbing departure from our moral and diplomatic traditions. This represents not just a loss of voice but also a surrender of values.

It is still not too late. India must speak clearly, act responsibly, and use every diplomatic channel available to defuse tensions and promote a return to dialogue in West Asia.

Lighting the spark in U.K.-India cultural relations

Alison Barrett
MBE, is the Country Director India at the British Council

May was a month of magical bonanza for United Kingdom-India relations. The long-anticipated Free Trade Agreement was ratified by both Prime Ministers, and it was another milestone that illuminated a different but equally significant dimension of their partnership: culture.

On May 2, U.K. Secretary of State for Culture, Rt Hon Lisa Nandy, and India's Minister for Culture, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, signed the Programme of Cultural Cooperation (POCC). This landmark agreement promises to light up the cultural corridor between the two nations, reaffirming their shared creative spirit.

The POCC outlines five programme areas: digital technologies for culture, exhibitions and collections, performances and events, cultural property, and sustainability. These themes directly support the creative economy, a core sector driving the U.K. government's industrial strategy. This agreement signals a shared commitment to cross-cultural collaboration and economic growth.

Before arriving in Delhi to sign the POCC, Ms. Nandy, the first Labour Cabinet Minister of Indian heritage, was the highest-ranking international delegate at the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) Summit, held in Mumbai. In her keynote, she powerfully highlighted the collaborative potential of the India-U.K. cultural and creative industries, sustainable by nature and an employment multiplier.

The growth of the creative arts sector

Globally, the creative arts sector is rapidly growing, projected to reach 10% of global GDP by 2030. At the G-20 New Delhi Leaders' Summit in 2023, global leaders unanimously called for greater investment in the sector. India hosting WAVES for the first time underscored its commitment, resulting in significant business deals and international agreements.

The POCC between India and the U.K. builds on this momentum. It brings together the Indian Ministry of Culture, the U.K. government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport and the British Council in India, alongside major U.K. cultural institutions – including Arts Council England, the British Library, the British Museum, the Natural History Museum, and the Science Museum Group. With over 1,700 accredited museums in the U.K., the scope for partnerships with their Indian counterparts is tremendous, especially around leveraging digital technology for sharing cultural experiences and heritage.

> The Programme of Cultural Cooperation between the two countries is built on themes that support the creative economy

At its core, the POCC signals hope: the creative economy can foster a more inclusive future, encompassing tech-driven sectors such as gaming, digital content, film, OTT, television and more – creating opportunities for skilled workers and innovators.

That is great news for India. With its deep cultural heritage, cutting-edge technology, skilled artisan base, and the world's largest youth population, India is uniquely positioned to lead. India's creative economy, valued at $35 billion, employs nearly 8% of its workforce, second only to agriculture. According to the Asian Development Bank's report (2022), 'Creative India: Tapping the Full Potential', six of India's top 10 creative hubs – from Badgam in Jammu and Kashmir to Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu – are in non-metro regions. This shows India's diverse cultural heritage. India, with over 300 universities and 3,000 colleges offering courses in design, arts, and architecture, is nurturing a global creative workforce.

A role for the U.K.

In 2023, during India's G-20 presidency, the U.K. played a pivotal role in supporting the cultural agenda. Artistic partnerships, creative project grants, and year-long cultural exchanges, such as Wales in India, which culminated at the 2024 Hornbill Festival in Nagaland, furthered that agenda bilaterally, redefining India-U.K. cultural ties and building lasting bonds.

Why do these global partnerships matter so much?

First, the creative economy is evolving rapidly. It faces challenges including skilled labour shortage. To meet this, we need sustained investment in education, vocational training and apprenticeships. International collaborations can help empower creative professionals with global competencies and best practices.

Second, emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and augmented reality and virtual reality (AR/VR) are transforming the sector. As the British Council's recent report, Arts and Technologies in India: Reimagining the Future argues, it is time to integrate it into India's creative education framework. Cultural exchange and cross-border partnerships can support professionals in navigating this digital shift.

India's creative canvas is expanding, driven by cultural wealth, youth potential, and a bold vision. Prime Minister Narendra Modi envisions India as a global creative hub – and with a three-pronged approach focused on education, skills, and international collaboration, we are well on our way. But it will require sustained cooperation between government, industry and academia to make that vision a reality.

Businesses and projects

Indian companies, too, are doing their bit. Take Royal Enfield, the iconic U.K.-India motorcycle brand, which is working in the Himalayas through its Social Mission. In partnership with UNESCO, it is helping to safeguard intangible cultural heritage and working with over 580 artisans through its textile conservation project, The Himalayan Knot. This initiative not only preserves sustainable textile traditions but also creates new market linkages for craft communities. Ms. Nandy heard this story first hand at the reception hosted in her honour by British High Commissioner Lindy Cameron and this writer in Delhi, where the Serendipity Arts Festival's Birmingham chapter was also launched – a moving reminder of how businesses can be storytellers too.

What truly binds the U.K. and India together are their people and their stories. In a world grappling with conflict and uncertainty, culture and creativity remain among the most time-tested healers of relations between people and nations. And in that, we have every reason to celebrate – and invest in – the creative spark that unites us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wars, a missing UN

Countries in West Asia seem to be burning one after the other, leading to a million dollar question. Where is the United Nations? What is it doing? What was an Israel-Palestine issue has now become an Israel-Iran issue. It almost appears as if the United Nations, the Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency have delegated authority to Israel to prevent the nuclear programme of Iran and wage war against it. The dangers of the wars spreading and disrupting life across the globe seem to have been lost on these agencies. The UN seems to have become a modern-day Nero. In the 'new world order', there seems to be no role for peace.

E.V. Tulasi Rao,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Now that Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz has openly said that Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei can no longer be allowed to exist, Iran could take this to be a serious challenge and attack Israel with all its mighty force.
Israel does not seem to want the wars to an end. The bombarding of the Gaza strip, causing total destruction, seems to point to its aim of wanting to form a Jewish state.
It is the primary duty of the UN to intervene and try to bring about a negotiation between all the warring nations.

Parthasarathy N.,
Chennai

There seems to be no end to conflict — the Russia-Ukraine war, the Hamas attack on Israel and the retaliation by Israel, and now, the Israel-Iran war. The effect of these wars has severely affected trade and crude prices, thus affecting the economy of many countries. What is surprising is the inability of the UN to intervene. The UN may end up losing its very identity.

M.R.G. Murthy,
Mysuru

Evacuation, optimism

Amid the very distressing news from West Asia is a gladdening report — the successful evacuation of Indian students from the war zones (Inside pages, "110 students from war-torn Iran land in New Delhi, via Armenia", June 20). What caught my eye was that many of the students were Kashmiri students, and were waving the tricolour on reaching New Delhi. This raises optimism that at long last, the disenchanted youth of Kashmir are now taking a step closer to endearing themselves to the Indian Republic.

Nalini Vijayaraghavan,
Thiruvananthapuram

No to intolerance

The Supreme Court of India's firm stand reaffirming the rights of film-makers and theatre owners, as seen in its direction to the Karnataka government to ensure the screening of *Thug Life*, is both timely and commendable. In a democracy, artistic freedom must not be held hostage by threats of violence or mob pressure. By underlining the state's duty to protect lawful expression, the Court has not only defended cinema but also upheld the rule of law. Such judgments strengthen the spine of free speech and remind us that intolerance must never dictate what the public can or cannot watch.

K. Chidanand Kumar,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

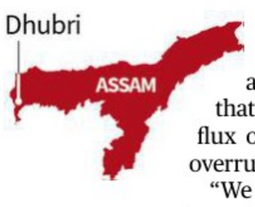
A security personnel keeps vigil in front of the Hanuman temple where beef was allegedly found, in Dhubri, Assam. RITURAJ KONWAR

Sowing seeds of mistrust in Assam

The Muslim-majority district of Dhubri, in Assam, close to the Bangladesh border, has remained largely calm after experiencing some fraught periods following the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992. This month, however, cattle body parts were allegedly found at a Hanuman temple on successive days, sparking communal tensions. **Rahul Karmakar** reports on a district on edge

Sobjer Ali is a man of routine. Every day, for nearly 50 years, he has travelled by boat between Kuntirchar Part 2, the village where he lives in Dhubri district of Assam, and Patharghat, where he ran a shop selling cattle feed. The routine, disturbed in the past sometimes by festivals, floods, and communal conflicts, was disrupted on June 14 when his world turned upside down. The shop that sustained Ali's family of six was one of the 110 deemed illegal and demolished by the local authorities. This happened a week after the body parts of cattle were allegedly found on successive days near a Hanuman temple about 2 kilometres away, triggering anger in the district.

Dhubri, the headquarters of the Muslim-majority Dhubri district, is 290 km west of Guwahati. It is bounded by the Brahmaputra river and its tributary, Gadadhar, on three sides. The town stands close to where the Brahmaputra becomes the Yamuna after flowing past the India-Bangladesh border. Dhubri is also used as a metaphor by some communities and political parties to underline the fear that drives politics in Assam – of how the influx of people from Bangladesh can one day overrun 'indigenous' Indians.



"We have endured worse situations, but *aage keu pete laathi maarey nai* (no one snatched away our sources of livelihood earlier)," said Ali. "We have been paying ₹50 per week to the municipality through a lessee who renews our lease every year. We barely had an hour to salvage our wares before the demolition started." He said he cannot understand why he was punished for what miscreants did elsewhere in the town.

Over the last few weeks, a string of similar incidents involving cattle have kept Dhubri on edge. On June 10, citing instances of pieces of meat being purportedly thrown in public places after Eid celebrations, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma alleged that beef is being "weaponised" against Hindus in the State. Stressing that the Assamese people have to take a "non-compromising" stance to push back "illegal foreigners," Sarma maintained that the State was waging a struggle against forces which had "sympathisers" across the world.

> We barely had an hour to salvage our wares before the demolition started.
>
> **SOBJER ALI**
> Shopkeeper

The spark

Patharghat, a ferry point on the bank of the Brahmaputra in Dhubri, is about 200 metres from a park called the Netai Dhubuni Ghat. This was constructed in honour of a washerwoman, Dhubri, from whom the district gets its name. Flanking this park along an 800 m stretch of road are several places of worship that once made Dhubri a religious confluence. These include a Ram temple, a Kali temple, the Panchpeer dargah, the Gurudwara Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib, and an Armenian church. The offices of the Dhubri District Commissioner and Senior Superintendent of Police are located on the stretch from Patharghat to the Armenian church, which was converted into a ladies' club years ago.

According to the Chief Minister, around Eid-al-Adha on June 7, "miscreants" scribbled some "provocative" words on the walls of some structures in this high-security zone. He suggested to the media that the words were written by people who belonged to Nobin Bangla, a group that reportedly espoused the merger of Dhubri with Bangladesh. He also said that the "head of a cow" was discovered at the 35-year-old Hanuman temple in the town's Baluchar Ward No. 3 on June 8, the day after the *qurbani* (sacrifice) Eid.

The Hanuman temple is situated on about half an acre of land owned by a man named Vishal Agarwal. He works as a distributor of soft drinks for the Dhubri region. Unlike conventional temples, it is a small, rectangular, tin-roofed concrete structure about 6 feet in height.

This plot of land is surrounded by two lanes, a school, and the office of the Seemanta Chetana Mancha, an international-border-areas-specific wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The Dhubri Baluchar Kabarsthan (cemetery) is located across one of the lanes, while an office of the Forest Department is across the other. The temple is also located about 50 m from the Dhubri Magistrate Colony and diagonally across the Iddgah Field, behind which is a Muslim locality.

On the night of June 8, after the alleged sight of the cow's head sparked tension, the authorities dismantled 12 makeshift shops run by Muslims along the wall of the Iddgah Field after right-wing protesters claimed that they sold beef and other illegal items. The Assam Cattle Preservation Act, 2021, provides for the preservation of cattle by regulating their slaughter, consumption, and transportation in the State.

The Hanuman temple where miscreants allegedly tried to stir communal tensions. RITURAJ KONWAR

Agarwal declined to speak on the beef controversy surrounding the temple on his plot. He said that much of the land used to be a jute warehouse until a decade ago. He also said that he had engaged Ramjan Ali Sheikh, the first man to be arrested when pieces of beef were again found on June 9, nearly at the same spot, as a guard, because Sheikh's uncle used to be the guard earlier.

"My son performed his duty diligently. Like any other day, he came home on the morning of June 9 for breakfast," said Sheikh's mother, Amina Begum. "Many policemen were posted in the area around the temple from the night before. In the morning, the police summoned my son as they suspected him of having placed the beef in the temple. He has been in lock-up since." Hers is one of the seven Muslim families in the Hindu-majority Baluchar locality.

According to Masud Zaman, an advocate associated with the Badruddin Ajmal-led All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), the discovery of cattle body parts for the second time despite watertight security reflected a possible design to let the situation get out of hand.

"The police picked up 18 people randomly without going after the real culprits behind the incident. Some of us stayed at the police station until 2.30 in the morning on June 10 to get some of these people released. They included a minor boy, a kidney patient, a government employee on hospital duty, and a man with a terminally ill daughter," he said. Among at least 50 others arrested over the next few days was Noor Islam Haque of Gaspara village, known to beg and sleep on the streets in the administrative hub of Dhubri.

Zaman said that the local authorities handled the situation well after the first incident on June 8. A committee comprising members of the Seemanta Chetana Mancha, Muslims, and members of other organisations decided that they would maintain peace at any cost.

"After the second incident took place on June 9, schools were closed on June 10. But everything was normal from the next day," he said. "Then the Chief Minister arrived on June 13 and said that he would issue an order to shoot on sight those who were pelting stones. This gave the impression that there is total unrest in Dhubri."

A string of incidents

From June 14, incidents similar to those at the Dhubri temple were reported elsewhere in Assam. The Chief Minister posted on X that beef was allegedly thrown near a Kali temple at Lakhipur in the adjoining Goalpara distric; the head of a cow was allegedly found at Borpukhuri in central Assam's Hojai for the second time in less than a week; and skulls of cows were allegedly discarded near a namghar, a neo-Vaishnavite prayer hall, in north-eastern Assam's Lakhimpur district. The police arrested more than a dozen people in connection with these incidents.

Piklu Paul, the vice-president of the Dhubri unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), said that the Hindus in the district have always lived under pressure. In the aftermath of the Babri Masjid demolition in 1992, up to 14 people were killed and curfew was imposed for more than a month. There was relatively less violence in 2012 as a fallout of the Bodo tribal-Muslim conflict in the adjoining Bodoland Territorial Region. "We are grateful to the Chief Minister for shoot-at-sight orders, which have kept the miscreants indoors after dusk. Dhubri could have burned had this tough step not been taken," he said.

Senior Congress leader Rakibul Hussain, who ended the AIUDF's 15-year run in the Dhubri Lok Sabha constituency in 2024, chose to stay out of the controversy. But Kazi Mahmudul, a local Congress leader, was ready to speak. "We have no complaints if those responsible for such a heinous act are punished according to the law, but carrying out demolition drives ostensibly linked to the Hanuman temple incident is painful," he said. "The government has the right to evict people from the land it owns, but there is a process to be followed. One has to give time to people who have been living in certain areas for decades."

> I was drawn into riots when I was young. Thankfully, no one got killed this time. But the cold stares and animosity in the eyes of people now is worse than death.
>
> **MD ABDUL SATTAR MOLLAH**
> Former employee of a match factory

Other party leaders said no "true Muslim" would place beef near a place of worship of people belonging to another religion.

The drive has hit Jaharuddin, a Dhubri resident, who pulled a handcart to deliver goods from Patharghat to dealers across the town. "The government should be lenient with demolitions so that we survive," he said.

Cattle smuggling

Dhubri residents believe that an application filed by the Dhubri Iddgah Committee to the district authorities, seeking to bring in about 4,000 cattle for *qurbani* (sacrifice) on Eid, was the genesis of the trouble. The committee issued 'membership cards', valid up to June 7, to procure the cattle.

"But the number of cattle brought in from West Bengal via Boxirhat (town bordering Assam) from June 3-5 was some 4 lakh," a member of the Seemanta Chetana Mancha said. "This caused a traffic jam on the highway. Thousands of people, each with a bull or cow on a leash, were walking along the road as if they were enjoying some kind of patronage. They paraded through Hindu areas, hurting the sentiments of many."

After local Hindus raised a hue and cry about the cattle passing through a security cordon along the inter-State border easily, and in violation of the Assam Cattle Preservation Act, the government took steps to check the inflow. But these measures had a minimal effect.

During his visit to Dhubri, Chief Minister Sarma said that a new network of cattle smugglers had increased its activities over the last few months and was bringing in cattle in large numbers from West Bengal. He vowed to crack down on this 'network' while asserting the government's commitment to enforcing law and order and defeating all communal forces.

Both Hindus and Muslims, however, have started doubting the government's intention. Zaman said that the authorities "showed a tendency to arrest petty criminals" for the Hanuman temple incident and not those who allegedly violated the cattle transportation law. The district is notorious for cattle smuggling to Bangladesh, where a cow fetches twice the average price of ₹30,000 in Assam. Some residents allege that the smugglers operate in nexus with a section of the district officials and the police, who, according to them, get a cut of up to 10%.

Dhubri's Senior Superintendent of Police, Leena Doley, dismissed allegations that the police were refusing to arrest illegal cattle traders. "We have rounded up a few, and the process is ongoing," she said. She replaced Navin Singh, who was transferred out of Dhubri a week after the incident at the Hanuman temple. As many as 164 police personnel, including 34 sub-inspectors, were also transferred out of the district.

"The message has gone out that the government will not tolerate disturbance of any kind. The situation is totally under control now," District Commissioner Dibakar Nath said.

Uneasy neighbours

Local BJP leaders blamed the Congress for keeping the district on edge. They said that the Congress had fuelled riots after the Babri Masjid demolition and had also let the situation deteriorate in 2012. They also said that it was not a coincidence that the incident at the Hanuman temple had happened a year after the Congress wrested the Dhubri parliamentary seat from the AIUDF.

Congress leaders, on the other hand, said that they were not surprised by the BJP's bid to project the AIUDF as a more secular party, as it was the "B-team" of the saffron brigade. Referring to the Dhubri incident, State Congress president Gaurav Gogoi said that the RSS and its affiliates, including the BJP, were fanning communal sentiments ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. "Investigations should be carried out against all those arrested for placing beef and parts of a cow in public places, including religious institutions, but those who put such ideas in the minds of miscreants should be probed too. Such incidents are part of the pre-election strategy of the BJP-RSS to hide their failures," he said.

Chief Minister Sarma retaliated, asking Gogoi to submit proof before accusing Hindus of fomenting trouble. "If Hindus have to throw meat, they will throw pork, not beef," he said.

At Baluchar, the seeds of distrust between Hindus and Muslims, sown years ago, seem to have sprouted. Paresh Das, a trader, said, "This was not the first time that *go-mangsho* (beef) was placed near the Hanuman temple. We know it will not be the last time, either. As the minority community, we have to tolerate this. We just hope that our sentiments are respected."

"Dhubri has not been an example of communal harmony, but economic compulsions often forced the people to apply the brakes after briefly attacking each other," said 83-year-old Md Abdul Sattar Mollah, a former employee of a match factory. "I was drawn into riots when I was young. Thankfully, no one got killed this time. But the cold stares and animosity in the eyes of people now is worse than death."

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From Page One

Will consider diplomacy if 'aggression' stops: Iran

British Foreign Secretary David Lammy said: "This is a perilous moment, and it is hugely important that we don't see regional escalation of this conflict."

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said there "can be no definitive solution through military means to the Iran nuclear problem. Military operations can delay it but they cannot eliminate it".

After Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not rule out killing supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Mr. Barrot also warned: "It is illusory and dangerous to want to impose a regime change from the outside. It is up to the people to decide their own destiny."

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said for her part: "Today the regional escalation benefits no-one. We must keep the discussions open."

Iran's state-run *IRNA* news agency said earlier that the Iranian delegation "emphasised that Iran has not left the negotiating table".

Israel began its campaign on Friday last week, saying the operation was aimed at halting Tehran from obtaining an atomic bomb.

Iran allows Indian evacuation flights

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that another chartered flight would bring over Indians who have already crossed over to Turkmenistan, and it was scheduled to fly from Ashgabat on Friday.

"The airspace is closed because of this issue [conflict with Israel] but we are making arrangements to open it for the safe passage of Indians, and we are doing our best to send Indian nationals wanting to leave, back safely," said Mohammad Javed Hosseini, the Deputy Chief of Mission officiating. He added that most of the 10,000 Indians in Iran have not been harmed by Israeli air strikes and drone attacks over the past week, other than a few who were injured during a strike that hit a college hostel in Tehran.

Mr. Hosseini called on India to join the international community, especially countries of the Global South, to pressure Israel to stop its aerial bombardment that entered its eighth day on Friday. Not "condemning" the Israeli government for its actions would "incentivise" other countries to carry out unilateral actions, he warned.

Iran's 'expectation is more'

The MEA has only issued one statement on the conflict so far, although it has commented separately on evacuation plans for Indians from Iran and Israel. In its June 14 statement, India had expressed "deep concern" about the strikes, called for "dialogue and diplomacy" to discuss de-escalating the conflict, and said it was monitoring the situation, especially the "reports related to attacks on nuclear sites". The statement did not criticise either side.

India has dissociated itself from a statement by the Russia and China-led Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) that includes Iran, which criticised Israel for its "aggression". In its statement, the MEA said that India was not a part of the negotiations on the SCO release. When asked, Mr. Hosseini denied that Iran was "disappointed" by India's move. "We understand India's position, but of course, our expectation is more," he said.

Responding to a question from *The Hindu*, Mr. Hosseini did not rule out the possibility of Iran closing the Straits of Hormuz as a pressure tactic if the conflict continued. Such a move would disrupt travel and trade across the region. He expressed hope that negotiations, slated between Iran and the E3-European countries for Friday, would help ease the situation. On the impact of the conflict on India's port project in Chabahar, the envoy said that it was a matter for the whole region, not just the project.

Court stays West Bengal's payment for sacked staff

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Friday restrained the West Bengal government from distributing honorarium to Group C and D employees whose services were terminated by the Supreme Court on April 3.

"As an interim measure, the State is restrained from giving any effect and/or further effect to the impugned scheme till September 26, 2025 or until further orders, whichever is earlier," Justice Amrita Sinha said.

The SC's April 3 order had annulled the appointment of 25,752 employees, who included teachers and Group C and D employees in State-run schools. While the top court on April 17 allowed the teachers to continue till December 31 until fresh recruitments are made, there was no word on the fate of Group C and D employees.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on April 26 had announced that Group C and D employees will get an honorarium of ₹25,000 and ₹20,000 per month. Since the court has annulled the appointments, these employees cannot offer their services.

Manipur on edge again after violence rekindles tensions

A shutdown was observed in Churachandpur district to protest the killing of a Kuki woman; All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation condemns the attack on Meitei farmer in Bishnupur district

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Two districts of Manipur remained tense on Friday, a day after unknown gunmen injured a Meitei farmer and a Kuki woman was shot dead later.

A shutdown was observed across the Churachandpur district, dominated by the Kuki-Zo people, to protest the woman's killing. She was identified as Hoikholhing Haokip, the wife of the chief of Langchingmanbi village adjoining the Bishnupur district, where the Meitei farmer was attacked.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum had called the shutdown, demanding "immediate action against those responsible for this atrocity, concrete steps from the Centre to ensure the protection of tribal lives and territory, and an independent investigation into the repeated buffer zone violations."

The people of Bishnupur, one of the five districts comprising the Meitei-majority Imphal Valley, continued to block a highway leading to the Churachandpur district. They demanded the arrest of the assailants of farmer Ningthoujam Biren Singh, who was shot in his left arm on Thursday.

Weapons cache: Arms and ammunition were recovered during search operations conducted by security forces in the fringe and vulnerable areas of hill and valley districts in Manipur. @MANIPUR_POLICE/X

Earlier, the Manipur Police said the security forces came under fire from unknown armed miscreants after the farmer was shot in Bishnupur's Phubala area. "...the forces retaliated accordingly. During the crossfire, one woman from Langchingmanbi village was found dead with a bullet injury," it said.

Manipur, scarred by the ethnic conflict between the Kuki-Zos and Meiteis, was relatively calm after the imposition of the President's Rule on February 13 this year. More than 250 people had died and some 60,000 were displaced in the clashes that had erupted on May 3, 2023.

Meanwhile, the All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation (AMUCO) condemned the Phubala incident, saying it suspected a conspiracy between the attackers and the security forces. It said the incident happened near a bunker of the Sashastra Seema Bal, whose personnel were inactive.

The organisation underlined the importance of holding accountable the security personnel found complicit or negligent, apart from the attackers. "The people of Manipur express deep dissatisfaction with the Ministry of Home Affairs' performance, as the region continues to grapple with ongoing conflicts and violence despite the government's claims of working towards restoring normalcy," the AMUCO said.

Dhankhar slams SC over Emergency era verdict

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday slammed the Supreme Court for its verdict delivered during the Emergency, dubbing it as the "darkest" in the judicial history of the world.

According to an official statement, he said the judgment of the Supreme Court overruling that of nine High Courts legitimised dictatorship and authoritarianism.

Mr. Dhankhar also questioned then-President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed's action of signing the proclamation of Emergency on the advice of then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and not the entire Council of Ministers.

Addressing a group of Rajya Sabha interns, Mr. Dhankhar said, "Nine High Courts in the country gloriously defined that Emergency or no Emergency, people have fundamental rights and there is access to the justice system. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court overturned all nine High Courts and gave a judgment which will be the darkest in the history of any judicial institution in the world."

₹29,208 cr. foreign assets declared by taxpayers after I-T Dept.'s data audit: govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department's efforts to match data obtained from other countries, including Switzerland, with income tax returns (ITRs) filed in India has resulted in taxpayers reporting additional foreign assets worth ₹29,208 crore and additional foreign income of ₹1,089.88 crore, the government said.

The govt. said Switzerland has provided annual financial data under an agreement.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Ministry of Finance also sought to address some allegations on social media that the black money of Indians stored in Swiss banks had ballooned. "Some media reports have suggested that money deposited in bank accounts of Indian entities in Switzerland has increased," the statement noted. "It is reported that the data pertains to different types of funds, including deposits from enterprises, banks and individuals."

It added that Switzerland has been providing India annual financial information about Indian residents under the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) agreement.

On the basis of such information, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) undertakes a review of the data and identifies taxpayers whose cases require "further verification", the statement added. "For AY 2024-25 (FY 2023-24), CBDT compared the data shared under AEOI with the information about foreign assets and income filed in the ITRs by the taxpayers, for the purpose of verification," the statement said. "The analysis covered all jurisdictions, including Switzerland."

Following this, SMSs and emails were sent to various taxpayers whose foreign assets and incomes were not reported in the correct schedules of the ITRs asking them to review their returns. "As a result, a total of 24,678 taxpayers reviewed their ITRs and 5,483 taxpayers filed their belated return for the AY2024-25, reporting foreign assets valuing to ₹29,208 crore and additional income of ₹1,089.88 crore as foreign income," the statement said.

CJI urged to take up case on ED notices to advocates

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA) wrote to Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Friday to take urgent *suo motu* cognisance of the Enforcement Directorate's issuance of summons to senior advocate Pratap Venugopal over legal advice tendered to a client.

Mr. Venugopal is the second senior counsel in the top court, after senior advocate Arvind Datar, to recently receive summons from the ED.

The Supreme Court Bar Association and the Bar Association of India also issued resolutions expressing "unequivocal condemnation of the action taken" by the ED.

The SCAORA's office-bearers later stated that the ED withdrew the summons issued to Mr. Venugopal.

INBRIEF

First Kailash Manasarovar Yatra batch flagged off

The first batch of 33 pilgrims and two liaison officers left for Kailash Manasarovar Yatra via Nathula in Sikkim on Friday, officials said. Governor Om Prakash Mathur flagged off the yatra at a function organised by the Ministry of External Affairs at the Sino-Indian frontier in East Sikkim. Tourism and Civil Aviation Department Additional Chief Secretary C.S. Rao welcomed the pilgrims on behalf of the State government and the people of Sikkim. Mr. Rao said the State government, in coordination with the departments concerned and paramilitary forces, had made all necessary arrangements to ensure the safety, and smooth passage of the pilgrims during their journey. The Governor appreciated the reopening of the yatra after six years. PTI

'Prevent deaths of suburban train commuters in Mumbai'

The Bombay High Court called the deaths of commuters on Mumbai's suburban trains "alarming" after five people died in a recent Mumbra train tragedy. The court noted that 3,588 people died on local trains in 2024, averaging 10 deaths daily, and said current safety measures are insufficient. It suggested installing automatic door-closing systems to prevent such tragedies and directed the Central Railway to submit expert committee recommendations with implementation timelines. The case is a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by daily commuter Yatin Jadhav concerning the high number of deaths on Mumbai's suburban local trains. The next hearing will be held on July 14.

ED holds searches over Bihar constable recruitment scam

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Patna Zonal Office, conducted search operations on Thursday at 11 locations in Patna, Nalanda, Ranchi, Lucknow and Kolkata in connection with the 2023 Bihar constable recruitment scam. The ED, in its statement, on Friday stated that during these searches incriminating materials, documents and digital devices have been seized. The scam involved M/s Caltex Multiventures Pvt. Ltd., which had an undisclosed agreement with M/s Blessing Secured Press Pvt. Ltd., whose director was blacklisted due to involvement in previous paper leak cases. "Question papers were removed from sealed boxes and sold via social media," the ED said.

ICF-designed coaches that are in special trains to be withdrawn

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Hundreds of Integral Coach Factory (ICF)-designed coaches running in special trains operated across the railway network will be withdrawn and condemned. According to railway sources, a majority of these coaches were earlier used for operating 62 Garib Rath Express trains on various routes.

The production of ICF-designed coaches for Garib Rath trains was stopped last year and replaced with Linke Hoffman Busch (LHB) air-conditioned economy rakes. The old coaches were used to run special trains.

However, several complaints were received from senior officials in different Zonal Railways about multiple maintenance issues, including electrical and mechanical problems, and non-availability of spare parts.

Due to several complaints, the Railways has ordered the withdrawal of the coaches.

With increasing number of complaints from the travelling public and railway officials in the recent months, the Railway Board has directed that erstwhile ICF-designed Garib Rath Express coaches be withdrawn from passenger service with immediate effect, the sources said.

"Zonal Railways have reported a number of issues in maintenance of electrical and mechanical sub-assemblies of ICF Garib Rath coaches, which include overdue mid-life rehabilitation and difficulty in procurement of spares. It has been decided to discontinue these coaches from passenger service," a railway official said.

About 900 coaches were expected to be withdrawn. Though a policy decision was taken to replace all ICF-designed coaches, most of which are at least 20-years old, hundreds of trains were being operated with old rakes.

New India will no longer be a victim of terrorism, says Rajnath

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday asserted that Operation Sindoor was a proof that new India was assertive, resolute and would no longer be a victim of terrorism. He was addressing jawans at the Barakhana organised on the eve of International Day of Yoga 2025 at the Army's Northern Command in Udhampur.

Mr. Singh said, "Operation Sindoor sent a powerful message to terrorists and their patrons that new India is assertive, resolute and will no longer be a victim of terrorism, but respond with strength and strategy."

The Defence Minister commended the precision, coordination and courage of the Armed Forces and intelligence agencies in destroying terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, asserting that India's change in policy towards terrorism was a result of this unmatched valour and dedication.

Rajnath Singh

Operation Sindoor was not just a military action, it was a warning to the terrorists sitting across the border, and more than that – to those who support them. India would no longer tolerate terrorism and give a befitting reply if its unity and integrity were harmed, he said.

He emphasised that Operation Sindoor was not over yet. This was just a pause.

Mr. Singh defined the life of a soldier as the one filled with courage and sacrifice, adding that the nation would forever remain indebted to the services rendered by the Armed Forces in the duty of the motherland. He urged the personnel to keep focusing on physical and mental well-being, underlining the importance of strength and wellness in a soldier's life.

Declined Trump's invitation in order to visit Odisha: PM

Modi unveils 105 projects worth ₹19,000 cr.; visit to the land of Lord Jagannath to mark the first anniversary of the BJP govt. in the State is more important than U.S. trip, he says at public rally

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Celebrating a milestone: Narendra Modi greets supporters as he arrives at the Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar on Friday to mark the anniversary of the BJP government in the State. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said he had politely declined an invitation from U.S. President Donald Trump to visit Washington, citing a prior commitment to visit Odisha.

Addressing a public rally in Bhubaneswar to mark the completion of one year of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Odisha, Mr. Modi said, "Two days ago, while I was in Canada for the G7 Summit, U.S. President Donald Trump called me. He said, 'Since you are already in Canada, why not return via Washington?' He invited me to sit together, have a meal, and hold discussions."

"He personally took the initiative to extend this invitation, and I thanked him for it. But I told him that my visit to the land of Lord Jagannath was more important. I humbly declined the invitation. It is your love and devotion for Lord Jagannath that brought me here," he said.

Dedicating and laying the foundation for 105 projects worth almost ₹19,000 crore for Odisha on the occasion of completion of a year of the Mohan Majhi government, Mr. Modi said, "This year is not about completion of one year for the government, but about establishment of good governance. This year has been dedicated to public service and people's trust."

"People saw the development model of Congress for decades after Independence. In Congress governments, there was neither good governance nor was life easy for people. Stalling the developments and engaging in massive corruption were part of the Congress's development model," he said.

Development model

"Now, for the past few years, the country has been witnessing the BJP's development model. In the last decade, there have been States where the BJP formed government for the first time. A new era of socio-economic transformation began," said Mr. Modi.

At the public meeting, Mr. Majhi said, "In the past one year, we have been able to touch the lives of everyone in the State. We have been able to fulfil our commitments by giving hiked input subsidy in paddy procurement, including Odisha in Ayushman Bharat, launching new educational infrastructure through Godabarish model schools in every panchayat and providing 28,346 new jobs in the government sector."

'Cleaning Ganga' has become an election *jumla*, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Of the 13 STPs built for the Ganga and tributaries in Bihar, only seven are working, says Cong.

On a day when Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated six sewage treatment plants (STPs) under the Namami Gange project, the Congress said that the Centre and the Bihar government have not fulfilled their promise of cleaning the Ganga and the exercise of clearing pollutants from the river has become just an "election *jumla*" in the past 11 years.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh claimed that "Mother Ganga" has become more polluted than ever before throughout its stretch, not just in Bihar.

"Most of the schemes launched in the name of the Ganga cleanliness campaign have proved to be a black hole of corruption. After the foundation-stone laying, inauguration, and heavy publicity, neither is any work visible nor any concrete result," Mr. Ramesh alleged in a post on social media platform X.

'Ad-loving PM'

"No matter how many fake announcements the Prime Minister makes, no matter how many ribbons he cuts for free advertising, the truth is that the double-engine government in Bihar has completely failed to meet the expectations of the common people," he added.

He alleged that oppression against deprived classes is at its peak in Bihar; the law-and-order situation is extremely bad; criminals are operating freely; common citizens are helpless; and there are daily reports of killings, robberies, and violence against women. And the lack of employment opportunities in the State has forced youngsters to migrate from Bihar, he added.

Addressing a press conference, Lok Sabha member from Sasaram Manoj Kumar cited a report to claim that of the 13 STPs built for the Ganga and its tributaries in Bihar, only seven are working. "Narendra Modi and (Bihar Chief Minister) Nitish Kumar together neither took any step towards flood control nor made the Ganga water drinkable. Even the National Green Tribunal imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on the Bihar government," Mr. Manoj Kumar said.

INBRIEF

MP Upendra Kushwaha says he received death threat call

Rajya Sabha MP and national president of Rashtriya Lok Morcha Upendra Kushwaha on Thursday said he received a death threat call. Mr. Kushwaha shared this information on his social media account 'X' at 11:31 p.m. on Thursday night. The MP said that he received the death threat call in the name of the gangster Lawrence Bishnoi gang.' "Today evening between 8:52 PM and 9:20 PM, I received 7 consecutive threatening calls in the name of Lawrence Bishnoi Gang... that if I continue to speak politically against a particular party, I will have to face the consequences," Mr. Kushwaha said.

Court allows extradition of rape accused to U.K.

A Delhi court recently permitted the extradition of Naijil Paul, a British national of Indian origin, to the U.K. to face trial for sexual offences. Wanted in Scotland for rape, sexual assault, and indecent communication involving three women, Mr. Paul came to India after charges were framed against him. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Pranav Joshi allowed the extradition while hearing the Centre's December 2024 order requesting the court to inquire into the extradition request made by the U.K. government by determining whether a *prima facie* case was made out against the accused. The court said that he would remain in Tihar prison till extradition formalities were completed.

RJD-Congress is anti-Bihar, anti-investment: PM

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Supporters cheer during a public meeting addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Siwan on Friday. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Siwan district in poll-bound Bihar on Friday, where he slammed the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) for pushing the State into the mire of lawlessness and corruption, while listing out the work done by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in the past decade to take the State forward.

"RJD-Congress is anti-Bihar, anti-investment. Both have been protectors of mafia raj, goonda raj, and corruption in Bihar," Mr. Modi said at a public meeting in Jasoli. He inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth ₹9,500 crore and flagged off a Vande Bharat train that would run between Pataliputra station in Patna and Gorakhpur in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

He said over four crore people had received *pucca* houses in the country in the past decade and three crore more would be given such houses in the coming days. "And, what is of more satisfaction to me is that most of these houses are registered in the name of our mothers and sisters," he added.

"Free ration, electricity, and water are given to them by our government, but those with the symbols of hand and lantern (the Congress and the RJD, respectively) were involved in looting the country, and still they are looking for an opportunity," he said.

"The poor, Dalit, Mahadalit, Extremely Backward Classes, and Other Backward Classes people have hardly benefited from the welfare measures by these parties in Bihar," he alleged.

'Fast progress'

Referring to his recent foreign tours, Mr. Modi said, "All leaders were impressed with the fast progress of India. India will soon become the third most powerful country in the world, and Bihar is going to play a pivotal role in this," he said.

"NDA has shown that poverty can be eradicated as 25 crore people have defeated poverty in the country in the past decade, of which 3.75 crore people are from Bihar," he added.

Slamming the RJD, Mr. Modi said, "They insult Babasaheb Ambedkar, but I keep Babasaheb in my heart." He was referring to the incident when a portrait of the Dalit icon was placed near the feet of RJD chief Lalu Prasad.

"For them (the RJD and the Congress), it is *Parivar ka saath, Parivar ka vikas* (benefit for the family), but for us, it is *sabka saath, sabka vikas* (benefit for all)," he said.

"Bihar will be a big centre of the Make-in-India programme," he added.

His visit to Siwan is politically significant as the district has a sizeable Muslim, Yadav, and Dalit population and is considered a stronghold of the RJD.

Slamming Mr. Modi's visit to Bihar, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, in a post on social media, said, "The PM is in Bihar today. On the basis of the caste survey conducted by the erstwhile INDIA bloc government in Bihar, the Bihar government had proposed 65% reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and EBCs. This is under challenge in the courts. The double engine government in Bihar has all but given up."

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary too addressed the meeting.

"The Opposition does unnecessary, uncalled-for advertisements, but that hardly makes any difference," Mr. Kumar said. He expressed his gratitude to the Modi-led NDA government at the Centre for the development measures and benefits provided for the growth of Bihar.

BJP is promoting itself with the hard-earned money of people of Bihar: Tejashwi

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Tejashwi Yadav

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav on Friday took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, claiming that whenever he visits Bihar, he extracts money from the pockets of the people of the State.

Mr. Yadav alleged that, in the name of a government function featuring the Prime Minister, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had actually organised a political rally and then forcefully brought people to Siwan to attend it.

"BJP is promoting itself with the hard-earned money of the people of Bihar. Modi*ji*'s speech neither fills anyone's stomach nor provides employment to anyone. There was neither any content in his speech nor any talk in the interest of the common man," Mr. Yadav told reporters.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Legislative Assembly added that BJP flags and banners were seen everywhere during government functions, which were paid for by the State government. About ₹100 crore is spent on every programme whenever the Prime Minister comes to Bihar, he said.

"The BJP, which boasts of being the richest party in the world, organises its own programmes, and India's poorest State, Bihar, bears the expenses. [Government] employees in Bihar do not get their salaries on time, the dues of MGNREGS workers are pending for six months, the students are not given scholarships, but the government's expenses are spent on burnishing the face of Modi*ji*," Mr. Yadav said. "The people of Bihar are saying that they do not want an unconscious Chief Minister and a Prime Minister who steals the hard-earned money from the pocket of people in the name of organising his rally," he added.

BJP accounted for over 44% of ₹3,352 cr. spent by parties in 2024 Lok Sabha polls: ADR

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The travel expenses were heavily skewed towards star campaigners.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spent ₹1,493.91 crore, accounting for 44.56% of the total expenditure incurred by 32 national and regional political parties during the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), a non-governmental organisation, said on Friday. The Congress spent ₹620.14 crore, or 18.5% of the total expenses.

Five national and 27 regional parties together spent ₹3,352.81 crore during the Lok Sabha and simultaneous Assembly elections held in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, and Sikkim between March and June.

The national parties accounted for more than ₹2,204 crore, which is 65.75% of the total expenses.

"Of the total funds collected, national parties collected ₹6,930.246 crore (93.08%) while regional parties received ₹515.32 crore (6.92%)," the ADR said in its report.

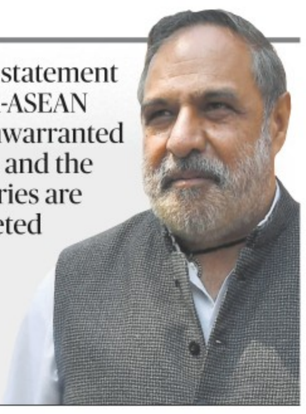
The parties spent ₹2,008 crore on publicity, which is more than 53% of their total declared expenditure. Next came travel expenses at ₹795 crore, followed by ₹402 crore in lump-sum payments to candidates. The parties also spent over ₹132 crore on virtual campaigns and ₹28 crore on publishing the criminal antecedents of their candidates.

The travel expenses were skewed towards star campaigners. Of the ₹795 crore spent, ₹765 crore (96.22%) went toward ferrying high-profile campaigners, with just ₹30 crore spent on the other leaders.

Sharma slams Goyal's remarks on ASEAN nations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> Piyush Goyal's statement belittling India-ASEAN trade agreements is unwarranted and unfortunate. India and the ASEAN group of countries are engaged in a multi-faceted relationship, which is mutually rewarding and important
>
> **ANAND SHARMA**
> Former Commerce Minister



Hitting out at Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal for his remarks against the India-ASEAN trade agreements, former Commerce Minister and Congress veteran Anand Sharma on Friday said that labelling the Southeast Asian countries as the "B team of China is irresponsible and insulting".

Mr. Goyal, speaking at the India Global Forum session in London on Thursday, had said that 15 years ago India was more focused on doing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with countries "who were our competitors". "So, if I am doing an ASEAN agreement, it really is silly because (that is) opening up my market to my competitors, many of whom have now become the B team of China. So, effectively and indirectly, I have opened up my market for goods that find their way from China into India," he had said.

Rebutting the statement, Mr. Sharma said successive Indian governments have consciously pursued this policy and elevated India-ASEAN relations to a strategic partnership.

"Commerce Minister's statement belittling India-ASEAN trade agreements is unwarranted, ill-advised, and unfortunate. India and the ASEAN group of countries are for over three decades engaged in a multi-faceted relationship, which is mutually rewarding and important," he said in a statement.

"This is an integral part of the Look East policy to deepen and diversify India's relations with a region that is economically vibrant and of enormous geo-strategic importance for engagement with the Asia-Pacific region," Mr. Sharma said.

"Piyush Goyal's statement terming the trade agreement with ASEAN as silly and labelling these countries as the B team of China is irresponsible and insulting. He has forgotten that President of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto was the chief guest for the 2025 Republic Day Parade," the Congress leader said.

He said the CECA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement) with ASEAN and trade agreements with Japan and South Korea are aimed at promoting investments and trade in goods and services.

Fundamental rule

"Piyush Goyal needs to be reminded of the fundamental rule of trade: 'No country can export what it does not produce nor import what it does not need'. It needs to be mentioned that ASEAN is India's fourth-largest trading partner, accounting for over 11% of India's total global trade, with bilateral trade at $120 billion and accounts for over 11% of India's exports. FDI inflows from ASEAN to India account for over 18% of total FDI inflows since 2000," he said.

Mr. Sharma argued that the agreements were diligently negotiated considering India's interests with this vibrant region and inbuilt checks and review mechanisms were put in place.

"In an interconnected and interdependent world, partnerships are the way forward and not exclusion and isolation. The Commerce Minister should be prioritising strengthening trade relations with partner countries and not insulting them while bending backwards to negotiate a suboptimal trade agreement with USA on its terms," Mr. Sharma said.

INBRIEF

Woman Maoist killed in Chhattisgarh encounter

A woman Maoist was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district on Friday, a police official said. The gunfight broke out on a forested hill within the jurisdiction of Chhotebethiya police station, when a joint team of District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Border Security Force (BSF) was out on an anti-Maoist operation, Kanker Superintendent of Police Indira Kalyan Elesela said. The operation was launched between Amatola and Kalpar villages based on inputs about the presence of the members of the banned Maoist organisation, Mr. Elesela said. "The body of a woman Maoist along with a weapon has been recovered from the encounter site," Mr. Elesela added. PTI

Car-truck collision kills nine in Bengal's Purulia

Nine people were killed in a head-on collision between a car and a truck on National Highway 18 in West Bengal's Purulia district on Friday. The accident took place around 6.30 a.m. near Namshol village under the Balarampur police station limits. "The head-on collision occurred between a Bolero SUV and a truck on the highway, resulting in the deaths of all nine occupants of the four-wheeler," Balarampur police station in-charge Soumyadeep Mallick said. The victims were returning from a wedding ceremony, police sources said. The collision impact was so severe that the SUV was mangled. Preliminary investigations suggest overspeeding and possible negligence as contributing factors to the accident, Mr. Mallick said. PTI

210 bodies of Air India crash victims handed over to kin

Official says 231 victims have been identified through DNA profiling and their family members have been notified; Gujarat govt. is yet to officially confirm final death toll from the plane crash

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Eight days after the tragic Ahmedabad plane crash, authorities have identified 231 victims through DNA testing and handed over the remains of 210 to their families, a health official confirmed on Friday.

"DNA samples have been successfully matched, and next of kin have been notified. As of now, the mortal remains of 210 victims have been released to their relatives," said Rakesh Joshi, Medical Superintendent of Ahmedabad Civil Hospital.

Among the identified victims are 166 Indians, 36 British nationals, seven Portuguese citizens, and one Canadian.

Dr. Joshi added that 155 of the Indian victims were passengers aboard the ill-fated flight.

However, the Gujarat government has yet to officially confirm the final death toll from the disaster.

Earlier authorities said that DNA samples from 250 victims – including passengers and those killed on the ground – had been collected for identification.

The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, en route to London, crashed into a residential area shortly after take-off on June 12, killing 241 of the 242 people on board and several others on the ground, including four students from the state-run B.J. Medical College.

Only one passenger survived the tragedy.

With many bodies severely charred or damaged, authorities are relying on DNA testing to establish the identities of the victims.

Insurmountable loss: Girdharbhai Kalavadiya, father of Mahesh Kalavadiya, breaks down during the cremation of his son in Ahmedabad on Friday. REUTERS

8 AI flights cancelled

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Air India cancelled eight flights, including four international services, on Friday due to enhanced maintenance and operational reasons.

The airline said its teams on the ground are making alternative arrangements for the passengers to fly to their respective destinations at the earliest. It has also offered full refunds on cancellation or complimentary rescheduling to passengers.

The international flights cancelled were AI906 from Dubai to Chennai, AI308 from Delhi to Melbourne, AI309 from Melbourne to Delhi, and AI2204 from Dubai to Hyderabad.

Shubhanshu Shukla's Axiom-4 mission to the ISS put off again

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Shubhanshu Shukla

NASA has put off Sunday's launch of the Axiom-4 mission carrying Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and three others to the International Space Station, saying it required additional time to evaluate operations on the orbital lab after the recent repairs in its Russian section.

The Axiom-4 mission was targeting a June 22 launch after being put off multiple times due to a leak in the boosters of SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket, inclement weather in the ascent trajectory and leaks in the aft-most section of Zvezda service module.

The space agency needs additional time to continue evaluating the International Space Station operations after recent repair work in the aft (back) most segment of the orbital laboratory's Zvezda service module, it said.

Because of the space station's interconnected and interdependent systems, NASA wants to ensure the station is ready for additional crew members, and the agency is taking the time necessary to review data, Axiom Space said in a statement.

Former NASA astronaut and director of human spaceflight at Axiom Space, Peggy Whitson, will command the commercial mission, while Group Captain Shukla will serve as the pilot. The two mission specialists are European Space Agency (ESA) project astronaut Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland and Tibor Kapu of Hungary.

The 14-day mission will "realise the return" to human spaceflight for India, Poland and Hungary.

The astronauts were originally scheduled for lift-off on May 29, which was put off to June 8, June 10 and June 11, when SpaceX, the providers of the launch rocket and the space capsule, detected a liquid oxygen leak in the Falcon-9 rocket. At a pre-launch press conference on June 10, SpaceX vice-president William Gerstenmaier said engineers had detected a liquid oxygen leak on the Falcon-9 booster during the re-entry phase of its previous mission that was not fully repaired during refurbishment.

Webinar on gadgets and ENT health to be held tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore and *The Hindu* are organising a webinar on "Gadgets in ENT" on Sunday.

This event is part of the "Healthy India, Happy India" initiative, a series of 15 webinars aimed at promoting health awareness, disease prevention, and overall wellness across India.

The webinar, scheduled to be held at 11.30 a.m., is the 13th instalment in the series.

With the increasing use of gadgets, such as earphones, Bluetooth devices, and industrial equipment, ENT (Ear, Nose, Throat) health has become a growing concern.

This webinar aims to explore the impact of modern technology and workplace noise on hearing and overall ENT wellness.

Early signs

The session will shed light on early warning signs, preventive strategies, and safe gadget usage practices often overlooked in everyday life.

Mary Kurien, professor and head, Department of ENT, Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore will speak on "How can we identify ENT-related problems early, and what precautions can help prevent them?".

Vikram M., consultant, Department of ENT, Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore will speak on "Noise-Induced Hearing Loss in Industrial Workplaces".

Sadhana Chandrababu, advanced audiology practitioner, Powys Teaching Health Board, NHS, United Kingdom, will speak on the topic "Which gadgets can lead to hearing loss, and how do they affect our hearing?". Soma Basu, senior deputy editor, *The Hindu* will moderate the session. E-certificate of participation will be issued to those who register for the webinar. For registrations, visit newsth.live/HIHIUIE or scan the QR code.

Centre forms panel to review competitive exams, cut dependency on coaching centres

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Education Ministry has constituted a panel, headed by Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi, to suggest measures to reduce dependency of students on coaching centres and assess the effectiveness and fairness of competitive entrance examinations.

The panel, according to a recent government order, will also brainstorm on the gaps in the current schooling system that contribute to students' reliance on coaching centres, particularly the limited focus on critical thinking, logical reasoning, analytical skills, and innovation, and "the prevalence of rote learning practices".

The committee will gauge the efficacy of school & higher education assessments in preparing students for entrance exams. GETTY IMAGES

Apart from Mr. Joshi, Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education, Joint Secretary (Institutions), Department of School Education and Literacy, representatives of IIT-Madras, NIT-Trichy, IIT-Kanpur, and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and three school principals (one each from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Navodaya Vidyalaya and a private school – to be nominated by the Centre) will be members in the panel. A Joint Secretary from the Higher Education Department will be Member Secretary of the panel.

'Dummy schools'

The order says the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the panel includes the examination of the reasons behind the emergence of "dummy schools" and their role in encouraging full-time coaching at the cost of formal schooling and suggest ways to curtail them.

The panel will also "assess the role and impact of formative assessments at school and higher education levels, and how their absence affects students' conceptual understanding and preparedness for competitive examinations".

The committee has also been tasked with analysing the rising demand for quality higher education, the limited availability of seats in premier institutions, and how this imbalance drives students towards coaching institutes. It will also evaluate the awareness levels among students and parents regarding multiple career pathways.

Another brief of the committee is to study the effectiveness and fairness of competitive entrance examinations. It will also review the advertising practices of coaching centres, including the use of misleading claims and the promotion of selective success stories, and recommend suitable mechanisms.

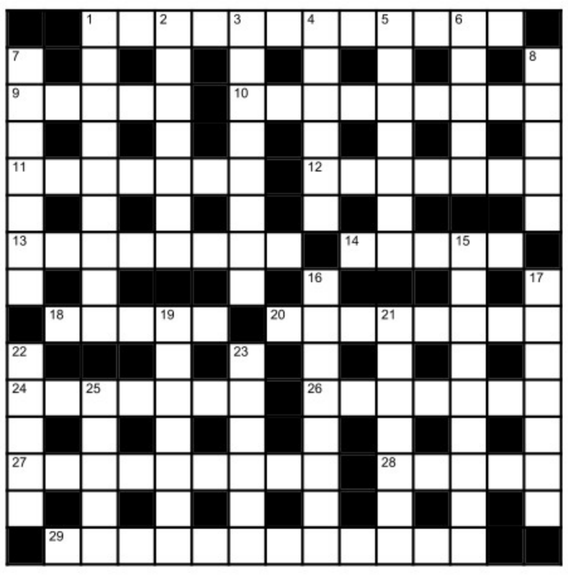
The panel will also assess the availability and effectiveness of career counselling services in schools and colleges.

TH CROSSWORD + 14517

(set by Karaoke)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Often drunken man crashed into India Gate by accident (4,3,5)
9 Fluid injected into body of the other side mostly with key adrenaline (5)
10 Opt to pocket daughter's offer? May it not happen! (3,6)
11 Trouble from the borders of Pahalgam intruded by butchers mainly in the job (7)
12 The Spanish glue lacking essential viscous ingredient (7)
13 Maybe penchant for a writer's last work? (4,4)
14 Original Inuit can keep gun in house (5)
18 Primarily bribe on duty becomes extra income (5)
20 Central forces involved in action set out for illegal substance (8)
24 Keep record of return gift on promotion (7)
26 Odd man out having interest for ice (7)
27 Finally olive oil with inapt treatment causing loss of hair (9)
28 Easier to solve after key tip-off and put out of your mind (5)
29 How do forums, take time, to spread rumours? (5-2-5)

Down

1 It is socially acceptable thing for this vegetable (3,6)
2 Disease, maybe nameless, but not new (7)
3 Case of facility recruiting unnamed professional killers (8)
4 He avoids setter perhaps having date with editor on vacation (7)
5 Attempt a poem on horse, get an exclamation of approval (4,3)
6 Setter's depressed, doesn't take long to saturate (5)
7 Make-shift estate facing violent wind (7)
8 Checks issues, withdraws money for daughter (5)
15 Doctor hopes to examine a bone. He manipulates skeletons (9)
16 Some applaud a numbing narcotic painkiller (8)
17 Mixture of small cider and water essentially for beverage (4,3)
19 Tight-fitting garment, one put on by a rural dean (7)
21 Couple of beverages drunk heartily in country house (7)
22 Ride away after stealing large gold brick (5)
23 Sheep hurriedly gone out of burning engine room (6)
25 Friend is radical, good-for-nothing primarily (5)

SUDOKU

8					1		2	
	3	9	4					
		1		3	8			
3			1	5		4		
1								9
		7		6	2			8
			6	8		2		
					5	8	6	
	4		2					1

No.SS6557 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	C	A	N	I	N	G		S	U	B	U	R	B	
	O		E		U		C		N		N		U	
S	T	I	R		M	O	O	N	S	T	R	U	C	K
	T		V		E		R		U		E		K	
L	A	W	Y	E	R		R	U	R	A	L	I	S	M
	G				A		E		E		A		A	
H	E	R	B	A	L	I	S	T		S	T	O	W	
				O				P				E		
	R	I	L	L		C	O	N	U	N	D	R	U	M
	A		O		C		N		N				N	
R	I	N	G	R	O	A	D		C	O	M	P	L	Y
	M		N		D		I		L		U		E	
D	E	P	E	N	D	E	N	C	E		F	E	A	R
	N		S		L		G		A		T		S	
	T	H	E	M	E	D		W	R	A	I	T	H	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	6	4	3	1	9	8	2	7
1	7	2	4	8	5	3	9	6
3	8	9	7	6	2	4	5	1
7	1	6	5	9	8	2	4	3
9	5	3	1	2	4	6	7	8
2	4	8	6	3	7	5	1	9
8	2	7	9	4	3	1	6	5
6	3	5	2	7	1	9	8	4
4	9	1	8	5	6	7	3	2

FAITH

Rishabha's sermon

Srimad Bhagavatam is a road map for a man's true journey in life, which is, not worldly pleasures, but a wealth of devotion which alone can help him attain God. To reach that goal, one should be guided by the teachings in our scriptures which are explained in a simple manner by pandits through discourses. The ever-merciful God, aware that, today, man is distracted by technology as well as material quest, has ensured that the same technology is a convenient tool for dissemination of knowledge to devotees, constrained by space and distance, which in due course will crystallise into bhakti, said B. Damodara Dikshithar.

Gnana is indeed true acquisition, the only wealth worthy of being passed on to successive generations. As in life, not everyone will be on a same level when it comes to scriptural knowledge, but one can gradually gain mastery with diligent application of mind. The sermon by the great ruler Rishabha, detailed in the fifth skandam of Bhagavata Puranam, is a great primer. Rishabha, who had once made the rain arrive during severe drought through his yogic powers, informed his hundred children that he would be leaving home within an hour and asked if they had any questions. When they said he had not taught them anything, he quietly asked whose fault it was, before proceeding to deliver his sermon. "The sacred human body you have got in the world is not meant to be utilised for sensuous enjoyments. It is to be used for the observance of austerity with noble spiritual ends. By such austerity the mind becomes pure, enabling one to attain the bliss of Brahman. The association with holy ones is the door for entrance to the realm of liberation."

INBRIEF

TCS to boost innovation in software-defined vehicle space

Tata Consultancy Services on Friday announced the expansion of its capabilities in the software-defined vehicles (SDV) space. To drive this, TCS is setting up two automotive delivery centres in Munich and Villingen-Schwenningen, Germany, and an engineering centre in Romania, the tech firm said. The German centres would support automakers in deploying TCS's software-driven services that cater to autonomous driving and connected technologies.

NABARD to lend ₹10,000 cr. in FY26 for green projects

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) plans to lend about ₹10,000 crore this year as part of its Green Lending Facility. Deputy MD Ajay Kumar Sood said NABARD unveiled the facility in FY25 to fund projects of Central and State governments, government agencies and private entities to meet sustainable development goals. The minimum loan amount disbursed would be ₹100 crore and for projects such as ethanol plants and EVs.

HDB Financial Services unveils ₹12,500-crore IPO

HDB Financial Services on Friday unveiled a ₹12,500-crore initial public offering (IPO), even as some regulatory issues surrounding the business persist. The company has set a price band of ₹700-740 for the fund raise, which is reportedly at a 66% discount to the price of the share in the grey market. The IPO includes a ₹2,500-crore fresh capital raise and ₹10,000 crore offer for sale from parent HDFC Bank, which will lead to a 20% cut in promoter shareholding to 75%. PTI

Steel sector in a fix as govt. gives less than a day to meet QCO

The notification, issued on June 13, said the quality compliance order will apply to all steel imports having a bill of lading dated on or after June 16

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Tight spot
Inputs to make steel and steel products, including imports, will have to meet BIS norms, says govt. notification

- Requirement will increase compliance burden, costs for steel importers, rues industry
- More problem for those importing semi-finished goods, says EEPC chairman
- Less than a day between order and announcement "not enough" for full compliance

A new notification by the Ministry of Steel on quality certifications for steel inputs has given industry players less than one business day to comply with it and stands to create huge disruptions and cost escalations for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the sector, according to steel industry participants and trade experts.

The notification, released on June 13, extended the Ministry of Steel's Quality Control Order (QCO) on steel and steel products to the inputs that go into the making of these products too.

This means that the input and raw materials used to make steel and steel products, including imports, will also have to conform to the relevant standards issued by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

For example, if a company in Malaysia supplies steel slabs to a Vietnamese company, which in turn processes them into sheets and exports those to India, both the Malaysian as well as Vietnamese firms will now need to be BIS-compliant.

According to Panckaj N. Umrania, Executive Director at KND Steel, this requirement will not only increase the compliance burden, but will also increase costs for steel importers.

"What will happen in the industry is that a lot of manufacturers will struggle to import now," Mr. Umrania told *The Hindu*.

'No govt. support'

"There is also no support available as such from the government," he added.

He added that, once the Indian importers start asking for documentation and certifications from their sellers abroad, then these sellers will increase the price of their supplies.

"It's a problem for importers, especially those who are importing semi-finished goods," Pankaj Chaddha, chairman of the Engineering Exports Promotion Council of India said. "It will impact the MSME importers in a big way," he added.

Apart from the compliance burden itself, the problem with the latest notification is that it has not provided enough time to businesses to comply. According to the notification, it would be effective for all steel imports that have a bill of lading dated on or after June 16, 2025.

"Effectively, Indian importers were not given even one working day – between the order's date being June 13, 2025 (Friday) and announcement date (over mail and SIMS portal) on June 16 (Monday) – to ensure full compliance," Ajay Srivastava, former Director General of Foreign Trade and founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said.

According to Mr. Umrania, even a month's notice would not have been enough time, since processes related to the steel industry take a long time.

'Monetary policy left with limited space to support growth'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Sanjay Malhotra

Given the uncertainties and after having reduced the policy rates by 100 bps in quick succession since February, in the prevailing growth-inflation scenario and the outlook, monetary policy would be left with very limited space to support growth, Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra observed in his MPC statement.

"Thus, it would be appropriate to change the stance from accommodative to neutral," said Mr. Malhotra, according to the minutes of the MPC meeting released on Friday.

"The global economic situation remains fragile and fluid. Apart from the near-term uncertainties, the medium-term outlook is also overcast amidst recurrent geopolitical flareups and reshaping of a new global trade order," he stated. Emphasising that global growth at present was on a weak footing, he said inflation was generally receding, though at a slow pace.

He said the heightened global uncertainties might put on hold investment decisions by businesses, underscoring the need for growth supportive policies. "The growth forecast remains the same as the out turn of last year, which was 6.5%. On the whole, I believe that, given the current macroeconomic conditions and the outlook, monetary policy needs to support growth, while remaining consistent with the objective of price stability," he emphasised.

"Given the sharp reduction in inflation of about 3 percentage points over the past few months [6.2 in October 2024 to 3.2 in April 2025], and the projected reduction in annual average inflation by almost one percentage point from 4.6 to 3.7%, I vote for a 50 bps rate cut," he stated.

MPC member and Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta said while a case could be made for two consecutive rate cuts of 25 bps each in this as well as the next policy cycle, there was also merit in frontloading these cuts.

"Therefore, I vote for a policy rate cut by 50 bps in this meeting. This should help in fostering policy certainty and faster transmission than a staggered rate cut," she observed.

External MPC member Sugato Bhattacharya, the only member who had voted for a lower 25 bps rate cut stated that the current growth impulses continued to exhibit economic resilience despite the prevailing uncertainty stemming from external developments.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,408	1.29
US Dollar	86.55	0.20
Gold	99,960	-0.59
Brent oil	76.66	-2.86

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2448.40	27.80
Adani Ports	1349.30	11.30
Apollo Hosp	7063.50	54.00
Asian Paints	2285.70	17.70
Axis Bank	1220.70	3.20
Bajaj Auto	8371.00	-125.00
Bajaj Finserv	1986.20	18.60
Bajaj Finance	905.00	4.50
Bharat Elec	408.25	9.70
Bharti Airtel	1936.70	59.70
Cipla	1499.70	15.70
Coal India	389.05	4.80
Dr Reddys Lab	1325.30	-0.80
Eicher Motors	5525.00	31.50
Eternal Ltd.	253.33	3.91
Grasim Ind	2712.60	19.40
HCL Tech	1739.90	26.00
HDFC Bank	1964.70	29.40
HDFC Life	778.95	17.10
Hero MotoCorp	4338.50	-45.80
Hindalco	649.15	7.80
Hind Unilever	2306.20	12.00
ICICI Bank	1427.10	15.80
IndusInd Bank	840.25	2.75
Infosys	1622.90	4.50
ITC	418.55	2.55
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	294.25	10.15
JSW Steel	1005.55	9.50
Kotak Bank	2169.80	23.40
L&T	3662.00	40.90
M&M	3184.40	89.60
Maruti Suzuki	12791.00	-15.00
NestleIndia	2360.40	41.50
NTPC	335.20	5.15
ONGC	251.89	0.33
PowerGrid Corp	293.10	6.65
Reliance Ind	1466.20	32.90
SBI Life	1810.90	21.50
State Bank	796.15	11.05
Shriram Finance Ltd.	666.35	14.15
Sun Pharma	1665.10	17.50
TataConsumerProduct	1100.20	11.90
Tata Motors	676.20	3.90
Tata Steel	151.97	0.97
TCS	3435.70	11.70
Tech Mahindra	1696.10	12.10
Titan	3519.00	13.60
Trent Ltd.	5897.50	174.00
UltraTech Cement	11458.00	38.00
Wipro	266.54	0.96

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 20

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.39	86.71
Euro	99.51	99.88
British Pound	116.56	117.00
Japanese Yen (100)	59.39	59.61
Chinese Yuan	12.03	12.08
Swiss Franc	105.71	106.11
Singapore Dollar	67.22	67.49
Canadian Dollar	63.03	63.28
Malaysian Ringitt	20.30	20.40
Australian Dollar	56.04	56.25

Source:Indian Bank

CRI Solar bags orders for ₹210-crore solar pumps

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

CRI Solar, a division of Coimbatore-based CRI Pumps, has bagged orders from the Maharashtra Energy Development Agency (MEDA), Haryana Renewable Energy Development Agency (HAREDA) and Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) to instal and commission 6,894 solar pumping systems, cumulatively valued at ₹210 crore.

G. Soundararajan, chairman of CRI Group, said in the release, "These projects go beyond infrastructure–they are enablers of rural prosperity, energy efficiency and environmental responsibility."

Cognizant's $183-mn unit to add 8,000 jobs

Reuters
BENGALURU

Globally, IT firms are taking cost-cutting measures.

Software services firm Cognizant Technology Solutions will invest ₹15.82 billion ($182.76 million) to build a new campus in the south Indian city Visakhapatnam that will create about 8,000 jobs, the State government announced.

Commercial operations will begin in March 2029, as per an Andhra Pradesh government press release.

Cognizant did not immediately comment.

This comes months after India's top IT firm TCS unveiled plans for ₹13.70 billion campus in the same city that is expected to generate 12,000 jobs.

The move aligns with Cognizant's strategy to optimise real estate costs. In May 2023, CEO Ravi Kumar said the firm would relinquish 11 million square feet office space globally, mainly in India's largest cities, while investing in tier-2 Indian cities. Globally, IT firms, including those in India's $283 billion sector, are taking cost-cutting measures such as monetising real estate assets and delaying wage increases amid demand uncertainty.

Granules unit in Hyderabad under U.S. FDA scanner

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Generic drugmaker Granules India's active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) manufacturing facility in Bonthapally, Hyderabad, has been issued an observation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA).

The Bonthapally facility is one of the world's largest single-site paracetamol API manufacturing plants by volume.

Along with paracetamol APIs, the company has established Metformin and Guaifenesin API manufacturing plants in the same facility, Granules India said in an intimation to the stock exchanges on Friday.

Indices gain 1.3%, mirroring Asian markets

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices broke their three-day losing streak and gained 1.3%, buoyed by robust Asian market performance and advancing U.S. futures.

Despite opening marginally lower, the indices swiftly moved upwards and sustained momentum throughout the trading session. The S&P BSE Sensex closed at 82,408 points, up 1,046 points, or 1.29%, led by gains in heavy weight stocks.

Bharti Airtel gained 3.27%, M&M and PowerGrid gained 2.93% and 2.38%, respectively while Reliance and Nestle surged 2.16% and 1.97% respectively. The NSE Nifty-50 index, too, gained 319 points, or 1.29%, to close at 25,112 points.

"Market sentiment experienced a pronounced bullish shift following President Donald Trump's announcement that he would determine within the forthcoming two weeks whether the United States would intervene in the Iran-Israel conflict. This geopolitical development provided the catalyst for renewed investor confidence," said Devarsh Vakil, head of Prime Research, HDFC Securities.

Nifty Midcap 100 Index gained by 1.46%, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 Index rose over 1%. Market breadth turned positive after seven days, with advancing stocks sharply outpacing declining ones, as indicated by a BSE advance-decline ratio of 1.67, highest since June 9.

Core sector growth slows to 9-month low of 0.7% in May on oil, gas, fertilizers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Key exceptions: Notably, the steel sector saw growth accelerating to 6.7% in May from 4.4% in April though on a high base . AFP

Growth in the eight core sectors slowed to a nine-month low of 0.7% on contractions in crude oil, natural gas, fertiliser and electricity sectors.

The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) for May, released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, was last lower in August 2024 when it contracted 1.4%. The pace of growth also marks two consecutive months of slowing growth in the index.

The eight core industries make up about 40% of the overall Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Within the ICI, crude oil sector contracted 1.8% in May, the fifth consecutive month of contraction on falling global crude oil prices. Refinery products grew 1.1% against a contraction of 4.5% in April. The natural gas sector contracted by 3.6%, the 11th consecutive month of contraction.

The contraction in the natural gas sector is linked with the performance of the fertiliser sector, the biggest consumer of natural gas, which contracted 5.9% against a contraction of 4.2% in April.

The electricity sector contracted 5.8% mainly on coal sector's subdued growth of 2.8%, which is down from the 3.5% growth seen in April. Notably, the steel sector growth accelerated to 6.7% from 4.4% in April. This was also on a high base of 8.9% in May 2024. The cement sector saw a robust growth of 9.2% although this was on a low base as the sector had contracted 0.6% in May last year.

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - Tender Notice
Office of The Chief Engineer (Commercial & Tariff), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
Inviting applications for Procurement of Electricity of 500 MW on long term basis under B(iv) Shakti Policy on Design, Build, Finance, Own and Operate (DBFOO) basis.
DEEP portal e-Tender no - KSEBL/Long/Coal from CIL/25-26/ET/RFQ/46 dated 19.06.2025
KSEBL/Long/Coal from CIL/25-26/ET/RFP/47 dated 19.06.2025
Last date of submission of RFQ - **18.08.2025**
Last date of submission of RFP - **24.09.2025, 11.00 am**
For more details visit **www.kseb.in** **Ref : PR/MC1/F357/2025**

Government of Rajasthan
Department of Medical, Health & FW and National Health Mission
Swasthya Bhawan, Jaipur.
Tel. No. 0141-2225736, E-Mail: cemhraj@gmail.com
No.:- 885 Date: 04.06.25
E-Tender Notice No. 09/2025-26
Online tenders are invited in prescribed format from experienced contractors registered in Public Works Department/State Government/Authorized organizations of Central Government/Central Public Works Department/Department of Posts and Telecommunications/ Railways etc. in appropriate category for **01 Building** Construction works in Medical and Health Department, Rajasthan, who are equivalent to the contractors of appropriate category of Rajasthan Government. Details related to the tender can be seen on DIPR website www.dipronline.Org, www.sppp.raj.nic.in http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and departmental website http://rajswasthya.nic.in. The total estimated cost of the tender is Rs. **2300.00 lakh.**
UBN:- NRH2526WLOB00442 **Chief Engineer Medical and Health Rajasthan, Jaipur**
DIPR/C/7856/2025

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Notice Inviting Bid
1. BID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS 220 KV AND 132 KV TRANSMISSION LINES ASSOCIATED WITH PROPOSED 220 KV GSS LOHAWAT INCLUDING SURVEY, SUPPLY OF ALL EQUIPMENTS/ MATERIALS, ERECTION (INCLUDING CIVIL WORKS), TESTING AND COMMISSIONING ON TURNKEY BASIS AGAINST SPECIFICATION NO. RVPN/EHV/BN-9019002519 & UBN: VPN2526WLOB00815 ARE INVITED FROM INTERESTED BIDDERS UP TO 04:00 PM ON 30.07.2025.
Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state; and **http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl** departmental website.
Superintending Engineer (Contracts-II), Jaipur
Raj.Samwad/C/25/4620 **RRVPN/TR-6938/2025**

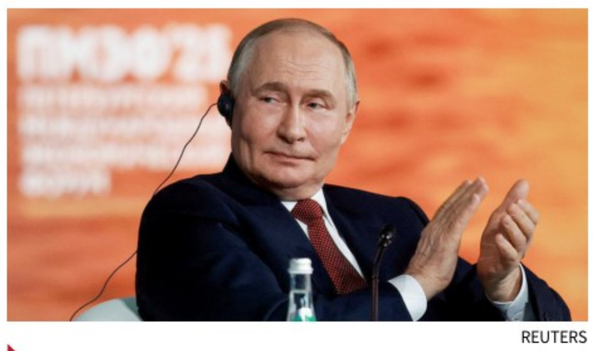
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, RNT MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER
ASSOCIATED GROUP OF HOSPITALS, UDAIPUR (RAJ.)
No. RNT/Pur-I/F.16/(e-Tendering Proc)/2025-26/816
Dated:- 09.06.2025
Notice Inviting Bid No.04/2025-26(e-tender)
Bids for NAT Testing are invited from interested bidders upto Date:- 01.07.2025 Time:- 10.30 AM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.
UBN- MCU2526SLOB00042
DIPR/C/7925/2025 **PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER**

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
Delhi Transco Ltd (A Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking) invites online tenders for the following work:
Tender No. T25R220451 : Modification/Shifting of 220kv Bamnauli-Dial Overhead, Double Circuit Transmission Line infringing to new proposed track at Bijwasan Railway Station on Turnkey Basis.
For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :-
https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID **No. 2025_DTL_273906_1)**
and www.dtl.gov.in
(Tender Reference No. -DTL-9640-190625)
Last date for bid submission: 05.08.2025 at 1:30 P.M.
All corrigendum,addendum, amendments, time extensions, clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

राष्ट्रीय इस्पात निगम लिमिटेड
RASHTRIYA ISPAT NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
VISAKHAPATNAM STEEL PLANT
WORKS CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
RINL Visakhapatnam Steel plant invites expression of Interest from prospective bidders having expertise, experience, resources and interest to take up "Technological upkeep of Wagon Tipplers, Total Mechanical & Electrical Maintenance with Housekeeping of RMHP Tipplers and Stacking Stream.." Interested firms are requested to submit their Expression of interest for the above work. The detailed EOI document can be downloaded from website www.vizagsteel.com under menu Tenders/Works Contracts.
EOI No.: VSP/WC/RMHP/2600009269/EOI/2025-26, Dated 19-06-2025
Name of the Work: "Technological upkeep of Wagon Tipplers, Total Mechanical & Electrical Maintenance with Housekeeping of RMHP Tipplers and Stacking Stream.."
Submission dead line: Before 3.00 PM on 10.07.2025
Bid Opening Date & Time: After 3.00 PM on 11.07.2025
Interested and eligible Agencies may submit their "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST" with all relevant details and supporting Documents on or before 10.07.2025 at 3.00PM. For any Technical queries you may please contact **Sri K SRINIVAS, DGM(O)/RMHP**, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, RINL, Visakhapatnam; E-mail: s_kalla@vizagsteel.com; Mobile No. **+91 9849289608**. For any queries regarding submission of documents in SRM Portal, Manual is available in ERP, SRM Portal. You can go through the Manual. SRM portal is at https://srm.vizagsteel.com.
GENERAL MANAGER (WC)I/C
For more details & corrigendum please visit regularly www.vizagsteel.com

ST. PETERSBURG

Russia has shared peace proposals with Israel and Iran, says Putin



REUTERS

Russian President Vladimir Putin said he has secured Israel's pledge to safeguard Moscow's personnel at Iran's Russia-built nuclear power plant and that he has reached out to both sides to try to end the week-old war. He also warned Ukraine that it could lose more territory if it keeps rejecting Russia's conditions for peace. AFP

LONDON

Pro-Palestinian activists break into U.K. air base and vandalise planes

REUTERS

Pro-Palestinian activists broke into the U.K.'s largest air force base in southeast England and vandalised two planes in an act condemned by Prime Minister Keir Starmer as "disgraceful" on Friday. The campaign group Palestine Action posted a video claiming to show its activist breaking into the Royal Air Force base in Oxfordshire. AFP

ISTANBUL

Armenia PM Pashinyan to meet Erdogan on 'historic' Turkiye visit

AP

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan arrived in Istanbul on Friday for a rare visit to arch-foe Turkiye, in what Yerevan has described as a "historic" step toward regional peace. Armenia and Turkiye have never established formal diplomatic ties, and their shared border has been closed since the 1990s. AFP

SAN FRANCISCO

U.S. court allows Trump control of National Guard in Los Angeles

REUTERS

A U.S. appeals court ruled President Donald Trump could continue control of National Guard troops in Los Angeles, over the objections of California Governor Gavin Newsom. Mr. Trump had ordered the National Guard troops and Marines into Los Angeles this month in response to protests over federal immigration sweeps. AFP

IAEA warns of nuclear disaster if Israel attacks Iran's Bushehr plant

Countries of the region have reached out directly to me to express their concerns, says Rafael Grossi, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency; he also warned against striking the lines that supply power to Bushehr

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

West Asia risks a nuclear catastrophe if Israel strikes Iran's southern nuclear plant of Bushehr, the head of the UN atomic watchdog warned on Friday.

Rafael Grossi, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told the UN Security Council that he has not yet detected radiation resulting from Israel's week-long military campaign against Iran, including attacks on nuclear sites.

But he said that a strike on Bushehr – West Asia's first civilian nuclear reactor, which so far appears to have been spared – would spell the most serious consequences as it contains thousands of kilograms of nuclear material.

Grave effects: IAEA says an attack on Bushehr would be dangerous as it contains thousands of kilograms of nuclear material. AFP

"Countries of the region have reached out directly to me over the past few hours to express their concerns, and I want to make it absolutely and completely clear – in case of an attack on the Bushehr nuclear power plant, a direct hit would result in a very high release of radioactivity," Mr. Grossi said.

Dire consequences

Mr. Grossi warned of equally dire consequences even if Israel strikes the lines that supply electricity to Bushehr, saying such disabling of power could trigger a meltdown.

In a worst case scenario, evacuations and orders to take shelter would need to be issued for areas within several hundred kilometres of Bushehr, which would include population centres in Gulf Arab monarchies, a major artery of the global economy.

The population would also need to take iodine and may see restrictions in food supply, Mr. Grossi said.

Construction on Bushehr began in the 1970s as the pro-Western shah sought to develop civilian nuclear power.

German scientists initially worked on the plant but since the 1990s the Islamic republic has worked with Russia to develop and maintain Bushehr.

Mr. Grossi appealed for a diplomatic solution and repeated his willingness to travel to negotiate a deal.

"The IAEA can guarantee through a watertight inspection system that nuclear weapons will not be developed in Iran," he said.

Israeli troops kill 60, half of them near Gaza aid sites; UN warns of man-made drought

Agence France-Presse
Reuters
GAZA CITY/GENEVA

Gaza's civil defence agency said 31 Palestinian aid seekers were among at least 60 people killed on Friday by Israeli forces, the latest in a string of deadly incidents near aid distribution sites.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said five persons were killed while waiting for aid in the southern Gaza Strip and 26 others near a central area known as the Netzarim corridor, an Israeli-controlled strip of land that bisects the Palestinian territory.

Thousands of Palestinians have gathered there daily in the hope of receiving food rations, as famine looms across Gaza after more than 20 months of war.

The Israeli Army said its troops in the Netzarim area had first fired "warning shots" at "suspects" approaching them.

When the individuals continued advancing, "an aircraft struck and eliminated the suspects in order to remove the threat," the Army said.

Dire straits: A girl cries at the morgue of Al-Awda hospital in Nuseirat camp in central Gaza on Friday. AFP

Similar incidents have occurred in that area regularly since late May, when the U.S.- and Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation opened its distribution centres, as Israel eased a two-month aid blocakde.

Meanwhile, the United Nations' children agency said on Friday that Gaza is facing a man-made drought as its water systems collapse.

"Children will begin to die of thirst ... Just 40% of drinking water production facilities remain functional," UNICEF spokesperson James Elder told reporters in Geneva. "We are way below emergency standards in terms of drinking water for people in Gaza," he added.

UNICEF also reported a 50% increase in children aged six months to 5 years admitted for treatment of malnutrition from April to May in Gaza, and half a million people going hungry.

It said the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) was "making a desperate situation worse."

Bangladesh, Pakistan, China hold trilateral discussion

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh, Pakistan and China held an inaugural trilateral foreign office-level discussion this week in Kunming, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan has announced. The trilateral consultation was led by Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Sun Weidong, Bangladesh's Acting Foreign Secretary Ruhul Alam Siddique and Additional Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Imran Ahmed Siddiqui.

Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Amna Baloch, who participated in the first Foreign Office Consultation with Bangladesh in one-and-a-half decades on April 17, 2025, participated in Thursday's trilateral discussion via video link, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan.

Latest avenue: (Left to right) Ruhul Alam Siddiqui, Sun Weidong and Imran Ahmed Siddiqui. X/@FOREIGNOFFICEPK

"In her remarks, Foreign Secretary Amna commended the Chinese side for convening the inaugural meeting of the trilateral mechanism. Noting the common aspirations of the three sides for people-centric development, the Foreign Secretary expressed Pakistan's desire for a deeper engagement between China and South Asian countries," said a press note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan announcing the Bangladesh, China, Pakistan Trilateral Mechanism.

This is the first such meeting between the three neighbours of India – China, Pakistan and Bangladesh – since Chief Adviser of the interim government of Bangladesh Mohammed Yunus visited China during March 26-29 and also since India carried out Operation Sindoor in May.

Taiwan detects 50 Chinese jets after U.K. vessel crosses Strait

Agence France-Presse
TAIPEI

Six Chinese naval vessels as well as fighters and drones were also spotted, says Taipei

Taiwan detected 50 Chinese military aircraft around the island, the Defence Ministry said on Friday, days after a British naval vessel sailed through the sensitive Taiwan Strait.

China insists democratic, self-ruled Taiwan is part of its territory and has threatened to use force to bring the island under its control.

Along with the 50 aircraft, six Chinese naval vessels were also detected in the 24 hours to 6:00 a.m. (0330 IST Friday), the Defence Ministry said.

It said in a separate statement that an additional 24 Chinese aircraft including fighters and drones were spotted since 08:50 a.m. on Friday.

The latest incursion came after British Royal Navy patrol vessel *HMS Spey* sailed through the Taiwan Strait on June 18, Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

The United States and other countries view the 180-km Taiwan Strait as international waters that should be open to all vessels.

China condemned Britain on Friday for sending the ship through the Taiwan Strait, saying the move had "undermined peace and stability" in the sensitive waterway.

U.K. lawmakers approve a Bill for assisted dying

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The U.K. House of Commons narrowly (314 to 291) passed a Bill to allow terminally ill people in England and Wales to end their lives. The legislation, which is likely to become law, will now head to the House of Lords for consideration.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, colloquially known as the Assisted Dying Bill, will only apply to people in England and Wales who have less than six months to live. A patient choosing to die would need to be of competent mind and two doctors, a psychiatrist, senior lawyer and social worker would need to sign off on their decision.

People react after the U.K. parliament voted in favour of a Bill to legalise assisted dying in Westminster on Friday. REUTERS

Kim Leadbeater, the MP who sponsored the Bill, told the House that it was not about a choice about living and dying but "it is a choice for terminally ill people about how they die".

U.K Prime Minister Keir Starmer supported the Bill while Kemi Badenoch, the Conservative Party leader who heads the Opposition, voted against it.

An emotional Dave Sowry, whose terminally ill wife had ended her life with the help of Dignitas, a Swiss assisted-dying nonprofit organisation, heaved a sigh of relief as he heard the Bill had passed during a televised interview with the BBC. Thirty seven Britons had travelled to Dignitas to end their lives in 2024 as per data from the organisation.

Several MPs reacted to the vote on social media.

One Labout MP, Vicky Foxcroft, said she was not opposed to the principle of assisted dying but would not support the Bill until "the vast majority of disabled people" backed it.

"Let's fix our NHS [National Health Service], social care and wider society first," she said.

Those opposed to the Bill had highlighted the risk that people with disabilities who felt like a burden would feel pressure to end their lives. Critics also pointed to the costs the Bill would generate for an already-overburdened NHS.

Indian born Labour MP from Wales, Kanishka Narayan, voted against the Bill, concerned that the current legislation would result in too many making a misinformed or coerced choice to die.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing , 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road,
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-05/257/2025-26 Date:19.06.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible (Class-II & above Electrical) Contractors registered in KCEI who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:

1) Re-Conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Kangrali & Kakathi Industrial Area, Belagavi District (Others). **2)** Re-Conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Kittur & Gokak Industrial Area, Belagavi District (Reserved for CAT-II(A)). **3)** Re-Conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Sankalapura 1st & 2nd Phase, Mundaragi 4th Phase & Kustagi Industrial Area, Ballari District (Others). **4)** Re-Conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Mummigatti Industrial Area, Dharwad District (Others). **5)** Re-Conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Tarihal 1st & 2nd Phase Industrial Area, Dharwad District (Others). **6)** Re-Conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Kanabargi from Plot No-721 Industrial Area, Belagavi District (Others). **7)** Re-Conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Basavakalyana, Humanabhadh Industrial Area, Bidar District (Others). **8)** Re-Conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Kanabargi from Plot No-722 to 1400 Industrial Area, Belagavi District (Others). **9)** Re-Conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Nandur-Kesartagi 1st & 2nd Phase Industrial Area, Kalaburgi District (Others). **10)** Re-Conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Honaga Industrial Area, Belagavi District (Others). **11)** Re-Conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Kapnoor 1st, 2nd & 3rd Phase Industrial Area, Kalaburgi District (Reserved for SC). **12)** Re-Conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Gamanagatti 1st & 2nd Phase Industrial Area, Dharwad District (Reserved for ST). **13)** Re-Conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Rayapura 1st & 2nd Phase, Sattur, Kelegeri Housing, Lakkamanahalli and Gadag Narasapura Industrial Area, Dharwad District (Reserved for SC). **14)** Re-Conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Kolhar naubad Housing, Naubad Autonagar Industrial Area, Bidar District (Others). **15)** Re-Conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Streetlights at Raichur Industrial Area, Raichur Housing, Raichur Growth centre, Manvi & Deosugur Industrial Area, Raichur District (Reserved for CAT-II(A)).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **16.07.2025 upto 04:30 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 2

DIPR/CP/JA/1355/2025-26

ELITE COMPANY

Gill becomes fifth Indian to slam a century on captaincy debut

Shubman Gill became the fifth Indian to score a century on captaincy debut. Vijay Hazare (164 n.o vs England, Delhi, 1951), Sunil Gavaskar (116 vs New Zealand, Auckland, 1976), Dilip Vengsarkar (102 vs West Indies, Delhi, 1987) and Virat Kohli (115 and 141 vs Australia, Adelaide, 2014) are the others.

RARE FEAT

Jaiswal first Indian to score a ton in first Tests in Australia, England

AFP

Yashasvi Jaiswal became the first Indian batter to score a century in his maiden Test in both Australia and England. The left-hander is also the fifth overall to achieve the feat. The 23-year-old opener also notched up a hundred on his debut against the West Indies at Roseau in 2023.

STRIKING SIMILARITY

Sai Sudharsan joins three former skippers with debut on June 20

X@BCCI

Sai Sudharsan, India's 317th Test player, joined Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly, and Virat Kohli in making the debut on June 20. While first two did it against England in 1996, Kohli's maiden appearance was against West Indies in 2011. The 23-year-old is the 30th Indian to be dismissed without troubling the scorer on debut.

MARK OF RESPECT

England, India players remember Ahmedabad plane crash victims

AP

The England and India players, along with the on-field umpires, observed a minute of silence in remembrance of the victims of the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad ahead of the first Test at Headingley. The players also sported black armbands as a mark of respect for those who lost their lives in the crash on June 12.

Masterful Jaiswal and solid Gill power Team India

The left-handed opener scores a century on his maiden appearance in England; flamboyant Pant flays an unbeaten half-century as the home side's bowlers toil on day one of the series

INDIA IN ENGLAND

N. Sudarshan
LEEDS

If you are looking for a soft landing in your maiden Test series as captain, England might not be the ideal place. However, on the opening day of India's first Test at Headingley here on Friday, Shubman Gill & Co. eased into a comfortable position, reaching 359 for three at stumps, with the skipper (127 batting, 175b, 16x4, 1x6) and his deputy Rishabh Pant (65 batting, 102b, 6x4, 2x6) keeping vigil.

True batting wicket

A lost toss, a duck for debutant B. Sai Sudharsan and packed stands egging the home side on notwithstanding, the Indian top-order feasted on a true batting wicket, the kind of which Ben Stokes' men wanted in the lead-up and something that still keeps them in the contest.

Gill was typically resplendent, scoring his sixth century and first outside the sub-continent. But the foundation was laid by Yashasvi Jaiswal (101, 159b, 16x4, 1x6) and the Mumbaikar's 91-run first-wicket association with the classy K.L. Rahul (42, 78b, 8x4).

The English new-ball attack was blunted to perfection on a hot morning before the Indian batters spread their wings under relatively cooler afternoon and early evening conditions to dominate proceedings.

First day, first show: Jaiswal and Gill put the English attack to the sword with an array of strokes in their 129-run partnership for the third wicket. GETTY IMAGES

Quiver of golden arrows

Jaiswal's innings was an apt summation of the day's cricket. The 23-year-old took 96 balls to get to his fifty but just 48 more for his fifth Test century and a first in the Old Blighty. He now has hundreds in the West Indies, India, Australia and England, resembling a quiver full of golden arrows.

What stood out was his surety outside the off-stump, even positioning himself well outside the crease initially to negate the movement.

There were occasions when he appeared fidgety, attempting the upper cut and playing and missing. But he was largely in control, with all 17 of his hits beyond the ropes - 16 along the ground and one over - coming in the arc between third-man and long-off.

On the stroke of lunch, Jaiswal lost Rahul, who lined up for a drive but couldn't cover for some late movement from Brydon Carse and edged to first slip Joe Root. Stokes tried a leg-side trap to get Jaiswal but it was Sai Sudharsan who took the bait and perished caught behind trying to glide one down.

After the break, Gill and Jaiswal were at their authoritative best and it showed in how they attacked England's lead pacer Chris Woakes. The right-armer started his afternoon spell with a maiden over but bled 38 runs from the next five.

Gill drove beautifully straight down, creamed a couple to the cover fence and clipped nonchalantly to the mid-wicket boundary. An excellent short-arm jab for four earned him his half-century (56b).

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS

Yashasvi Jaiswal b Stokes 101 *(159b, 16x4, 1x6)*, K.L. Rahul c Root b Carse 42 *(78b, 8x4)*, B. Sai Sudharsan c Smith b Stokes 0 *(4b)*, Shubman Gill (batting) 127 *(175b, 16x4, 1x6)*, Rishabh Pant (batting) 65 *(102b, 6x4, 2x6)*; Extras (b-1, lb-10, nb-7, w-1, pen-5): 24; Total (for three wkts. in 85 overs): 359.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-91 (Rahul, 24.5 overs), 2-92 (Sai Sudharsan, 25.4), 3-221 (Jaiswal, 52.3).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Woakes 19-2-89-0, Carse 16-5-70-1, Tongue 16-0-75-0, Stokes 13-1-43-2, Bashir 21-4-66-0.

Toss: England.

Post fifty, Gill slowed down - the century came 84 balls later via a pleasing drive off Josh Tongue - while Jaiswal took centre-stage.

The southpaw was bothered by a sore right forearm, but that didn't stop him from slashing Tongue for a six, and moving from 87 to 99 with two cuts and a drive off Carse. A tapped single brought the crowd on to its feet in collective appreciation.

In the second over after tea though, Stokes breached Jaiswal's defence with a fine delivery that straightened after pitching. Pant, the next man in, jumped down the track second ball and smashed Stokes over his head. He added 61 swashbuckling runs to his score, with the promise for many more.

I was just trying to keep faith in my process, says Jaiswal

N. Sudarshan
LEEDS

Not many batters can boast of having scored their first five Test hundreds in four different countries. Yashasvi Jaiswal, whose nascent career is still in its 20th match, has managed that feat.

On Friday in the opening Test against England at Headingley, the 23-year-old reached the three-figure mark (101) in his first match here, something he also managed in Perth last year by scoring a ton in his maiden outing – albeit in the second innings – in Australia.

"I think all the things I do, everything, I enjoy and love it," Jaiswal said after the day's play in Leeds. "But some are special, and a first is first always."

Though the 22 yards proved to be batting paradise, Jaiswal was mindful of the early morning help most bowlers get in these parts. He was far from expansive in the initial phase, and eschewed all risk on the leg-side, not accounting for a single boundary in that region all innings.

Fruitful association: Jaiswal said that he enjoyed batting with Gill. ANI

"Challenges are always there in cricket," he said. "It's different at different stages. I was just trying to keep faith in my process, about how to play in particular situations, how the field is, where they are bowling and what the team needs."

Jaiswal said that he enjoyed batting with Shubman Gill during the 129-run third-wicket stand.

"We spoke a lot in the middle. It was to play session by session, and cash in when there is a loose ball. There was amazing camaraderie. It was great to bat with him. He was calm and composed."

Former New Zealand speedster Tim Southee, who is now part of the English backroom staff, doffed his hat too.

"They negotiated the first hour well, they left [the ball] well," Southee said.

"There was a little bit of assistance but overall a pretty good surface, which is encouraging for us while we get to bat. But credit to them, Jaiswal and Gill played a pretty good hand".

Chaubey using AIFF president's post for political gain: Bhutia

FOOTBALL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia blamed All India Football Federation president Kalyan Chaubey for Indian football's current predicament saying that the latter is using his post for political gain.

"For first time we have a president of the football federation using his position for political mileage by offering some opposition leader a post in AIFF to gain support in the elections."

'Shame'

"It is such a shame that he has downgraded the post of the AIFF president by doing that," Bhutia said during an interaction with the media at the Calcutta Sports Journalists' Club on Friday. A lot of people who supported him at that time (the last AIFF elections in September 2022) are regretting it today. I am happy that they are now realising (the mistake)they have done.

Scathing attack: Bhutia alleged that Chaubey has downgraded the position of the AIFF chief. PTI

"I hope in the next elections they would bring in somebody who has got the sincerity to take football forward and not support anybody who wants to do all the dodgy deals," Bhutia said.

The legendary striker said that he won't be contesting the elections if there is political interference.

The Supreme Court is expected to give its verdict on the formalisation of a new AIFF constitution next month, following which there is a possibility of fresh elections in the Football House.

Bhutia was upset with the way the AIFF under Chaubey's charge mismanaged the negotiations with its marketing partner FSDL as it failed to finalise the MRA (Master Rights Agreement) thereby throwing the Indian Super League's future in doubt.

> I hope in the next elections they would bring in somebody who has got the sincerity to take football forward and not support anybody who wants to do all the dodgy deals
>
> **BHUTIA**
> Former India captain

'No answer'

"Unfortunately the people entrusted with the task of negotiating with FSDL are just going to meetings having tea, pizza and returning after listening to FSDl's side of the deal.

When I asked the AIFF people, what did you propose? They didn't have any answer," Bhutia added.

Chaubey dismisses Bhutia's allegations

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

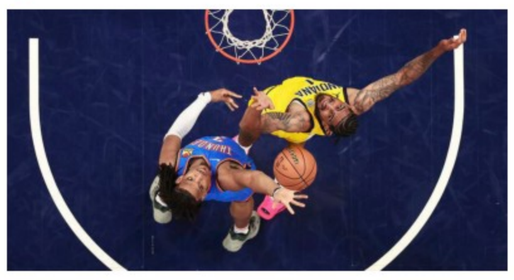
All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey dismissed Bhaichung Bhutia's allegations as "baseless". He also accused Bhutia of "deliberately distorting the image of AIFF".

"As a member of the (AIFF) Executive Committee, Bhutia has access to appropriate and empowered platforms to express his views. However, since his defeat in September 2022 (AIFF president's election), he has consistently and deliberately made baseless allegations and presented a distorted image of the AIFF. These actions tarnish the federation's reputation and Indian football internationally." Chaubey said in an AIFF statement.

Chaubey also invited Bhutia to the AIFF Executive Committee meeting on July 2, saying he can raise his concerns and suggestions there.

"He is most welcome to present any constructive proposals," Chaubey said.

INBRIEF



Pacers thrash Thunder to stay alive in NBA Finals

Indiana Pacers crushed Oklahoma City Thunder 108-91 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis on Thursday to force a decisive game seven in the NBA Finals. Game 7 will played in Oklahoma City on Sunday, June 22.

The results: Indiana Pacers 108 (Topinn 20, Nembhard 17) bt Oklahoma City Thunder 91 (Gilgeous-Alexander 21, Williams 16). *Series tied 3-3.*

Man City fined £1.08 million for delayed kickoffs

Manchester City has been fined £1.08 million by the Premier League over delayed kick-offs in nine matches last season. Premier League officials announced on Thursday that Pep Guardiola's side had breached rules around kick-off and restart times between October and February. The longest delay was two minutes and 24 seconds before the resumption of the Manchester derby at Old Trafford in December. The Premier League said City had accepted the breaches and apologised for the incidents.

Bavuma out of Zimbabwe Tests, Maharaj to lead

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma has been ruled out of the two-Test series against Zimbabwe that starts in Bulawayo on June 28 after he failed to recover from a hamstring injury sustained in the World Test Championship final win over Australia at Lord's. Keshav Maharaj will captain the side in Bavuma's absence, with no replacement named in the squad for the latter.

Indian compound archers win two individual gold

Indian compound archers won two individual gold medals at the Asia Cup Leg-2 in Singapore on Friday. Tejal Salve defeated compatriot Shanmukhi Naga Sai Budde 146-144 to claim the women's title while Kushal Dalal beat Australian Joshua Mahon 149-143 for the men's crown. Sachin Chechi secured the compound men's bronze. Indians lost in five team finals to end up with silver medals.

The results: Compound: Individual: Men: Final: Kushal Dalal bt Joshua Mahon (Aus) 149-143; **bronze-medal playoff:** Sachin Chechi bt Himu Bachhar (Ban) 148-146.
Women: Final: Tejal Salve bt Shanmukhi Naga Sai Budde 146-144.
Team: Final: Men: Kazakhstan bt India 235-231. **Women:** Malaysia bt India 232-232 (shoot-off 29-26); **Mixed:** Kazakhstan bt India 155-153. **Recurve: Final: Men:** Japan bt India 6-0; **Mixed:** Indonesia bt India 6-0.

Ishan Kishan signs short-term deal with Nottinghamshire

Wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan has signed a short-term deal, subject to international clearance, with Nottinghamshire to play two County matches, the club said on Friday. The 26-year-old Kishan will be a replacement for South Africa's Kyle Verreynne in the side and will be available for selection for their matches against Yorkshire and Somerset.

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Club World Cup DAZN, 6.30 a.m., 9.30 p.m. (Saturday); 12.30 & 3.30 a.m. (Sunday)
Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh: 1st Test, day 5, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.45 a.m.
England vs India: 1st Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 1 & 5 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.
TNPL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 7.15 p.m.
Athletics: Diamond League (Paris), Diamond League YouTube channel, 1.12 a.m. (Sunday)

Nayeem Hasan derails Lanka innings before Bangladesh batters consolidate

The off-spinner steals the show with a five-wicket haul as the host loses wickets in a cluster to concede a 10-run lead; the visitor reaches 177 for three

BANGLADESH IN SL

Agence France-Presse
GALLE

Bangladesh edged ahead of Sri Lanka on day four of the first Test here on Friday, extending its lead to 187 runs with seven wickets in hand.

The visitor finished at 177 for three after a strong partnership of 68 between opener Shadman Islam and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto.

All-rounder Milan Rathnayake dismissed Shadman for 76, but veteran campaigner Mushfiqur Rahim, fresh off a first-innings century, joined his captain to steady the innings.

The duo put on an unbroken 49-run partnership for the fourth wicket to put Bangladesh in the driver's seat heading into the final day.

Castled: Tharindu Ratnayake has no clue to this pearler from Nayeem . AP

Off-spinner Nayeem Hasan earlier took five wickets to halt Sri Lanka's first-innings charge, with the host dismissed for 485 after lunch to trail by 10 runs.

Nayeem was well supported by Hasan Mahmud (three for 74).

Sri Lanka looked set for a useful lead after the first session, reaching 465 for six with Kamindu Mendis and Rathnayake stitching together a gritty 84-run stand for the seventh wicket.

Collapse

However, Sri Lanka surrendered the momentum with a lower-order collapse, losing its last four wickets for 15 runs.

Rathnayake had shown commendable defiance for his 39 but was undone by an inside edge onto the stumps off Mahmud.

Kamindu followed in the next over with Sri Lanka's score unchanged, falling to Nayeem's off-spin as the ball kicked off the surface and caught the left-hander by surprise.

His composed 87 included eight fours and a six but he fell with a third hundred against Bangladesh within sight.

Nayeem then removed debutant Tharindu Rathnayake for a duck with another sharp off-break that went through the gate as Sri Lanka lost three wickets for just one run in 10 deliveries. He then removed Asitha Fernando (4) to close out Sri Lanka's innings.

The scores: Bangladesh 495 & 177/3 in 57 overs (Shadman 76, Shanto 56 batting) vs Sri Lanka 485 in 131.2 overs (Nissanka 187, Chandimal 54, Kamindu Mendis 87, Hasan Mahmud 3/74, Nayeem Hasan 5/121).

Hockey stars get a kick out of playing football

Maya Sarkar
Tejas Rao
BENGALURU

Former India international hockey player Anup Antony has a simple motto. "If you've mastered hockey, any other sport is easy," he said.

Antony lives by these words. He is now the player-secretary of Konkan FC, a team in the BDFA 'C' division football league here.

Antony took steps to start this football team over a decade ago.

Fifteen of the 18 players are either international or national level field hockey players, who joined the club purely for their love of football.

"In my younger days, I was a footballer. I used to play for my father's team. I've met a lot of hockey players who asked to join our football team. Konkan FC started with three hockey players, now we're up to 15," Antony told *The Hindu*' on Friday.

"A hockey player can adapt to football. Hockey and football is similar in terms of formation, planning, and strategy," Antony said.

Antony was keen to make a contribution to football, and realised this dream when he started a football academy, BGF Sporting Club, four years ago.

On target: Uthappa scored a hat-trick for Konkan FC.
K. MURALI KUMAR

Hockey Olympian S.K. Uthappa is among the most popular names in Konkan FC. "I just love playing football here, but I cannot give it my all because I have to worry about my professional hockey career," Uthappa, who represents Indian Oil in the hockey domestic circuit, said.

"As a hockey player, this comes easy. It's the same concept - pass, make the run," Uthappa said.

V.S. Vinaya is the other player in the team who has represented the Indian hockey team.

Noel Robinson, Mohammed Naeemuddin, Govind Raj and Praveen Kumar are some of the players who have represented the Karnataka hockey team.

On Friday, Uthappa turned hero with a hat-trick, starring in Konkan's 5-0 win against Jsports FC.

Konkan FC, the team to beat this year, is on track to achieving promotion.

Parvez and Geetha triumph

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Parvez Ahmed and P. Geetha won the men's and women's titles in the Karnataka State-ranking tenpin bowling tournament here on Friday.

In the men's final, top seed Akaash Ahok Kumar (155) took a narrow lead against second seed Parvez (151) in the opening game. In the second game, Parvez took off with four continuous strikes scoring 235 against 191 by Akaash to defeat him 386-346. In the women's final, second seed P. Geetha took out top seed J. Preemal 310-286.

Special prizes: Highest Average in 6 game block (Men): Akaash Ashok Kumar (203.2)**; Highest Average in 18 games (Men):** Akaash Ashok Kumar (187.61); **Highest Average in 12 games (Women):** Preemal J (159.1).

Parvez and Geetha with their big prize.

At the launch: Delhi CM Rekha Gupta, second from right, unveils the mascot Viraaj. ANI

Logo, mascot for World para athletics c'ships unveiled

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

With 100 days to go for the 2025 World para athletics championships here, the logo and mascot for the global event were unveiled by the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) here on Friday. The 12th edition of the tournament, which will be held from September 27 to October 5, will feature 186 medal events. India is hosting the event for the first time.

The official mascot, called Viraaj, is a young elephant with a blade prosthesis.

"More than 100 countries are going to be participating. This is a very big opportunity for India to display its ability to host such events and put out a grand show," said PCI president Devendra Jhajharia, a former javelin thrower who won two Paralympics gold medals.

The athletics track at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium is being relaid ahead of the event. "The venue will be ready a month before the beginning of the event. The preparations are on track. I visited the venue just three days ago," Jhajharia informed.

Australia drops Labuschagne

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

Australia has dropped Marnus Labuschagne for the opening match of its three-Test tour of the West Indies, chair of selectors George Bailey said. The tourist will also be without Steve Smith in the opening match due to a finger injury sustained during the World Test Championship final loss to South Africa. Josh Inglis and Sam Konstas will come into the starting XI for the opening match. Bailey said the batting order and final team would be determined closer to the game.

Australia squad: Pat Cummins (Capt.), Sean Abbott, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Sam Konstas, Matt Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Beau Webster.

Bopanna-Gille pair loses; Prashanth-Gornes in final

Sports Bureau

Rohan Bopanna and Sander Gille were beaten 7-6 (4), 7-6(5) in the doubles quarterfinals of the €2,522,220 ATP tournament in London. The Indo-Belgian pair won 90 ATP points and €20,910.

Other results:
€181,250 Challenger, Nottingham: Doubles (quarterfinals): Diego Hidalgo (Ecu) & Patrik Trhac (USA) bt Nicolas Barrientos (Col) & Rithvik Bollipalli 7-6(9), 6-7(5), [10-5]; Santiago Gonzalez (Mex) & Austin Krajicek (USA) bt Jaime Faria (Por) & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 7-6(5), 6-2.
€145,250 Challenger, Poznan: Doubles (semifinals): Sergio Gornes (Esp) & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Matwe Middelkoop & Jean-Julien Rojer (Ned) 6-7(3), 7-6(6), [10-7].
Quarterfinals: Sergio & Vijay bt Mateus Alves & Marcelo Zormann (Bra) 6-0, 6-7(3), [10-6].
€54,000 Challenger, Royan, France: Doubles (semifinals): Adil Kalyanpur & Parikshit Somani bt Egor Agafonov & Maxim Zhukov 1-6, 6-4, [10-5].
$30,000 ITF men, Monastir: Doubles (quarterfinals): Eliakim Coulibaly (CIV) & Isaac Nortey (Gha) bt Olaf Pieczkowski (Pol) & Karan Singh 3-6, 6-3, [10-7].
$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: Singles (quarterfinals): Yanis Durand (Fra) bt Dev Javia 6-4, 2-6, 6-1.
Doubles (semifinals): Prajwal Dev & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Rafael De Allba (Mex) & Sam Ziegann (Aus) 6-3, 6-2.
$30,000 ITF women, Tauste, Spain: Singles (quarterfinals): Diletta Cherubini (Ita) bt Ankita Raina 7-5, 7-6(3).
Doubles (semifinals): Rutuja Bhosale & Ankita Raina bt Maria Vaquero & Alba Garcia (Esp) 6-7(1), 7-6(2), [12-10].
$30,000 ITF women, Wichita, USA: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Hiba Shaikh (USA) 7-5, 6-0.
Doubles (quarterfinals): Maria Bandera (Esp) & Julia Garcia (Mex) bt Martina Okalova (Svk) & Sahaja Yamalapalli 7-6(4), 7-6(6).
$15,000 ITF women, Monastir: Singles (quarterfinals): Zeel Desai bt Elyse Tse (Nzl) 6-0, 7-6(3).

Ranquelino primed to deliver in the Chief Justice's Cup

BENGALURU: Ranquelino, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the Chief Justice's Cup (1,800m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Saturday (June 21). False rails (width about 3.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 1-30 p.m.: 1. La Quinta (7) Kuldeep S 56, 2. Republican Star (1) Vishal Bunde 56, 3. Resplendence (5) Shezad Khan 56, 4. Vortex Wind (2) B. Dharshan 56, 5. Adornment (6) Akshay K 54.5, 6. Annabelle (9) Antony 54.5, 7. Enola Holmes (3) Neeraj 54.5, 8. Power Pilot (8) A. Ramu 54.5, 9. Tyaaraa (10) I. Chisty 54.5 and 10. Your Unforgettable (4) Trevor 54.5.
1. YOUR UNFORGETTABLE, 2. ADORNMENT, 3. LA QUINTA

2 PADDIWICK PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 2-00: 1. Multisided (7) R. Pradeep 62, 2. Emeraldo (4) A. Hangal 61, 3. Flamingo Dream (8) Vivek 58.5, 4. Secred Creator (1) Angad 58.5, 5. Striking Eyes (3) Suhas K 58.5, 6. Estefania (5) Antony 55.5, 7. Bourbon Bay (6) Koshi K 55 and 8. Chiraag 2) Afsar 55.
1. MULTISIDED, 2. ESTEFANIA, 3. FLAMINGO DREAM

3 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-30 pm: 1. Aces Up (2) R. Pradeep 56, 2. Efficacy (9) Trevor 56, 3. Mighty Hero (3) C. Umesh 56, 4. Sapporo (7) Arvind K 56, 5. Togo (8) Arul 56, 6. Gusto's Baby (4) Likith Appu 54.5, 7. Hushed (5) L.A. Rozario 54.5, 8. ILia (6) Antony 54.5 and 9. Majestic Persona (1) A. Ramu 54.5.
1. EFFICACY, 2. MIGHTY HERO, 3. GUSTO'S BABY

4 SIR M. VISVESVARAYA MEMORIAL CUP (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-00: 1. Agrador (2) Akshay K 56, 2. Call Me Trinity (–) (–) 56, 3. Claude (1) P.S. Kaviraj 56, 4. Flaming Sword (8) Neeraj 56, 5. Mahler (5) Trevor 56, 6. Renoir (6) A. Prakash 56, 7. Schoenberg (4) Hindu S 54.5, 8. Star Of The Future (11) Shivam 56, 9. Black Diamond (3) Yash 54.5, 10. Neptune (10) Sandesh 54.5, 11. Queen Maxima (9) Darshan 54.5 and 12. Zephyrine (7) Arvind K 54.5.
1. AGRADOR, 2. NEPTUNE, 3. MAHLER

5 D. KUMAR SIDDANNA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 3-30: 1. Perfect Legend (11) Suraj 60, 2. Exclusive Black (3) Bhawani S 58.5, 3. Cherie Chevalier (9) P. Sai Kumar 57, 4. Chardikala (10) Trevor 55.5, 5. Armory (6) Angad 55, 6. Crimson Flame (1) R. Vaibhav 55, 7. Aquastic (5) Akshay K 54.5, 8. Magnetar (2) Neeraj 53.5, 9. Anigraha (4) Hindu S 52, 10. Challenge Accepted (8) Sandesh 52, 11. Ice Of Fire (7) G. Vivek 51 and 12. Racing Ruler (12) A. Prakash 50.5.
1. ICE OF FIRE, 2. PERFECT LEGEND, 3. CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

6 CHIEF JUSTICE'S CUP (1,800m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Touch Of Grey (9) Yash 60.5, 2. Ranquelino (3) Sandesh 59, 3. Casteel (6) Suraj 57.5, 4. Monteverdi (2) Neeraj 56, 5. Supernatural (4) G. Vivek 54, 6. Galahad (5) Akshay K 53, 7. Queen Of Kings (7) A.S. Peter 53, 8. Shadow Of The Moon (1) Likith Appu 53 and 9. Nomitsi (8) C. Umesh 51.5.
1. RANQUELINO, 2. CASTEEL, 3. SUPERNATURAL

7 DUPONT PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-30: 1. Wellington (11) Arvind K 62, 2. Night Raider (4) Pavan 60.5, 3. Final Call (10) Neeraj 59.5, 4. Agera (2) Manish R 58.5, 5. Imperial Star (12) M. Prabhakaran 57.5, 6. Double Vision (7) Shivam 55.5, 7. Doncaster Belle (8) S. Saqlain 53.5, 8. Higgs Boson (9) Angad 53.5, 9. Tukoman (6) S.A. Amit 53.5, 10. Dr. Colchester (1) Arjun 53, 11. Supercharge (5) L.A. Rozario 52.5 and 12. Divine Protector (3) A. Ramu 51.
1. NIGHT RIDER, 2. DONCASTER BELLE, 3. FINAL CALL

8 PRABALO PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Darrion (4) G. Vivek 60.5, 2. Perfect Attitude (12) Sandesh 59, 3. Star Admiral (11) Rayan 58, 4. Able One (8) Salman Khan 57, 5. Star Honour (1) Suraj 57, 6. Anzac Parade (10) Aleemuddin 56, 7. Silicon Star (9) R. Pradeep 56, 8. Super Kind (7) Dhanu S 55, 9. Thutmose (3) Antony 55, 10. Honeypot (6) Angad 53.5, 11. Silver Quest (2) P.P. Dhebe 53.5 and 12. Striking Arrow (5) A. Ramu 53.
1. PERFECT ATTITUDE, 2. SILICON STAR, 3. STAR HONOUR
Day's best: **EFFICACY**
Double: **YOUR UNFORGETTABLE – ICE OF FIRE**
Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.

Botafogo stuns PSG; Messi special floors Porto

The Brazilian side tops Group B with six points; Atletico also wins the second round of group match; Seattle stares at elimination after suffering a second successive loss

CLUB WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
PASADENA

Truly special: Botafogo players are ecstatic after pulling off an upset. GETTY IMAGES

European champion Paris Saint-Germain suffered a shock 1-0 Club World Cup defeat to Brazilian side Botafogo on Thursday after Lionel Messi lit up the tournament with a brilliant free-kick winner for Inter Miami.

Atletico Madrid also won as the second round of group matches began, but it was Botafogo who stole the headlines.

A first-half goal from Igor Jesus proved the difference as last year's Copa Libertadores winner all but sealed a place in the knockout rounds from Group B in front of 53,699 fans at the Pasadena Rose Bowl in California.

PSG is one of the favourites for FIFA's 32-team tournament after a dazzling season which culminated with a scintillating 5-0 demolition of Inter Milan in the Champions League final.Botafogo took the lead against the run of play on 36 minutes as Jefferson Savarino's through ball split the PSG defence and released Jesus. He then did brilliantly to wrongfoot the covering Willian Pacho before sweeping a shot that took a slight deflection past goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma on its way into the net.

Botafogo's win leaves them firmly on course for the last 16, with a final group game against Atletico to come on Monday.

Atletico bounced back from a 4-0 loss to PSG as Diego Simeone's side beat Seattle Sounders 3-1.

Pablo Barrios scored twice, including an 11th-minute opener which crashed in off the underside of the crossbar.

Belgian Axel Witsel came off the bench at half-time and almost immediately made it 2-0, nodding in from close range after a Marcos Llorente shot was tipped onto the woodwork. Albert Rusnak quickly pulled one back for Seattle, only for Barrios to score again for 3-1.

Botafogo tops Group B with six points, with PSG and Atletico each on three and Seattle facing probable elimination after two defeats.

Earlier, Messi scored a trademark free-kick to secure a 2-1 comeback win for Inter Miami against Porto in Atlanta in Group A.

The Argentine superstar found the top corner with a set-piece nine minutes after half-time to clinch a surprise victory for the MLS side and give them a strong chance of progressing.

Samu Aghehowa's early penalty gave Porto the lead and they had the better of the first half.

But Telasco Segovia blasted Miami level and then Messi's free-kick helped them claim a noteworthy scalp.

Javier Mascherano's Miami has four points from two games, meaning it is level atop the group with Palmeiras.

A draw between Inter Miami and Palmeiras on Monday will send both teams into the last 16.

The results: On Thursday:
Group A: Inter Miami 2 (Segovia 47, Messi 54) bt Porto 1 (Aghehowa 8-pen).
Group B: Seattle Sounders 1 (Rusnak 50) lost to Atletico Madrid 3 (Barrios 11, 55, Witsel 47); Paris Saint-Germain 0 lost to Botafogo 1 (Jesus 36).

Golden day for Vicky; women win five medals

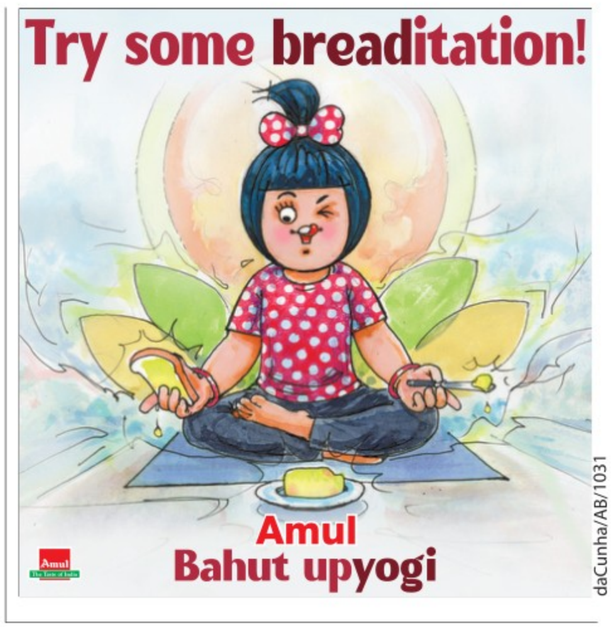
Sports Bureau

Vicky won a gold while the Indian women wrestlers picked up four silver and a bronze at the Asian under-23 wrestling championships in Ving Tau, Vietnam, on Friday.

In freestyle, Vicky (97kg) beat Kazakhstan's Nurdaulet Bekenov 9-6 in the final.

Neha Sharma (57kg), who was beaten 4-8 by North Korean Ji Ju An in the title clash, and Jyoti Berwal (72kg), who lost 1-6 to Kygyzstan's Nurzat Nurtaeva in the final, bagged a silver each.

Pragati Gaikwad (62kg) and Shiksha (65kg), who lost one of their round-robin matches, also claimed silver medals. Hinaben Khalifa (53kg) secured a bronze.



Messi's competitive and winning spirit contagious, says coach Mascherano

Agence France-Presse
ATLANTA

Magician at work: Messi continues to cast a spell over opponents and fans. REUTERS

Inter Miami coach Javier Mascherano admitted he was surprised at Lionel Messi's desire to win after the MLS side shocked Porto at the Club World Cup on Thursday.

Messi curled home a free-kick in a Player-of-the-Match performance at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, the winning goal in Miami's 2-1 Group A victory over their Portuguese opponents.

Mascherano said his Argentine compatriot's competitive spirit at 37 was more surprising to him than the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner's quality.

"Beyond his goal... he's a player who shows us how to compete, his hunger, his desire to continue competing at whatever level it is," said Mascherano.

"In a footballing sense, what else is there to say. He's the best player that has played this sport in its history, but what is surprising is his will to win.

"Today, even in the last minutes, tired, with a knock, he kept helping the team in any way he could, in attack, in defence, to get a result. We know having him gives us an advantage, but above all, through his contagious spirit, the winning spirit that he has."

Porto was expected to beat Inter Miami but the American side recorded its first win in a competitive match for an MLS team against European opposition and the first shock at the Club World Cup.

"I think we understood that in football there are obviously hierarchies, and we were facing against a team at a high level, with international players," said Mascherano. "But we were convinced that if we did what we had to do, we could compete".

Government Dental College & Research Institute, Bangalore
(A Govt. Autonomous Institute)
Victoria Hospital Campus, Fort, Bangalore - 560 002.
Phone : 080-26705053 / 26703176, e-mail : gdcribangalore@gmail.com
website : www.karnataka.gov.in/gdcrib

No.:GDCRI/GRB/97/2024-25 Date: 18.06.2025
Tender No. : DME/2025-26/IND1497

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Electronic Tendering Portal Only)

Government Dental College and Research Institute, Bangalore invites e-tenders through the electronic procurement platform as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 1999 & Rules 2000 and as amended from time to time, for the purchase and supply of laptops under the Grants of SCP/TSP scheme for the year 2024-25 of Social Welfare Department for free distribution to SC/ST students studying in first year of BDS at private dental colleges in the districts of Karnataka.
The tender form / documents, details, terms & conditions and other information can be obtained through the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and the filled tender forms should be submitted through e-procurement portal. The tender schedule dates under the e-procurement portal are as follows:
1) Starting date for uploading tenders on e-portal: **18.06.2025 onwards.** 2) Last date for submission of filled tender forms: **04.07.2025 up to 4.00 P.M. 3)** Date of opening of technical bid: **07.07.2025 at 11.00 A.M. 4)** The time and date of opening of financial bids will be intimated later.

Sd/-
Dean and Director,
Govt Dental College and
Research Institute, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/JA/1366/2025-26

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, 2nd Floor, Shakthi Soudha, 13th Cross Road, 4th 'B' Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru - 560040.

No: EE(GRN)/TN/GL-02/2025-26 Date: 19-06-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, BBMP, Bengaluru from the registered Contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations for the work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
	Two Cover Works
1	Providing GYM Equipments and Other Beautification Works to the Ground in Govindaraja Nagara Constituency. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 200.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,42,000.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **03-07-2025 upto 16.00 Hours. 3)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **04-07-2025 after 16.30 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Financial Proposals: **After approval of Technical Proposals through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Govindarajanagara Division, BBMP.

Town Panchayat Harohalli
Harohalli Taluk, Bangalore South Dist-56112
Ph: 080-29760055, e-mail Id: tp.harohalli@gmail.com

No: pph/hs/manpower/tender/2025-26 Date: 19.06.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Chief Officer, Town Panchayat Harohalli Has invited tender Through e-procurement portal for **Rs. 84.35 lakshs** for **Supply of Manpower, Driver, Driver-cum-Operator, Loaders, Helpers under Outsourcing for solid waste management works** of Town Panchayat Under Town Panchayat Fund (DMA/2025-26/SE5545). Eligible Suppliers/ contractors can submit their tenders through **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal. EMD money and tender processing charges should also be paid electronically. Last date of submission of tenders: **04-07-2025 upto 4:30 pm**. Date of tender opening: **05-07-2025 after 5:00 pm**. Postponement and amendments in any dates will be published on e-procurement portal only. Connot be published in any news papers.

Sd/-
Chief officer
Town Panchayat Harohalli
DIPR/BSD/180/SA/2025-26

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD
Estate Branch, Krishinagar, Dharwad-5
Fax:+91-836-2441188 Phone :+ 91-836-2214214
E mail: estateofficer@rediffmail.com Epabx:+91-836-2214214/216,332,215

No.EO/e-Proc.KM-2025/ /2025-26 Date: 18.06.2025

"TENDER NOTIFICATION" (II ND CALL)

Tenders have been re-invited from registered Contractors / agencies for Erection of temporary stalls and other works for Krishimela -2025 (For four days during September 2025) at UAS Dharwad. The details of the tender can be had through e-procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1	Last Date & Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications.	27-06-2025	Up to	16.00 Hrs
2	Date & Time for pre Bid meeting.	30-06-2025	At	11.00Hrs
3	Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders.	03-07-2025	Up to	16.00 Hrs
4	Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid.	04-07-2025	At	16.15Hrs
5	Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid.	05-07-2025	At	16.00Hrs

Note: The bidders shall get updated / acquainted with ADDENDUM / CORRIGENDUM (if any) issued on-line from time to time on the e-procurement portal during the entire tender process. For more details please contact office **telephone No.0836-2214216/332** during office hours.

DIPR/Dwd/313/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26 **Sd/- Estate Officer**

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, RADHADEVI K N, W/o late Sri K K Damodaran, R/at Kulangarath Nambidiveetil, Kaladi, PO: Kaladi Malappuram, District Malappuram, Kerala State, hereby declare that the names Radha Devi and Radhadevi K N both belong to me only. Hence forth I shall be known and called as Radhadevi K N for all legal purposes vide Affidavit dated 04.06.2025 sworn before notary B M Chandrashekar

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nitin Joshua S/O, Sahaya Jeyaraj R/o S04, Creative Environs Apts, 55/9, 24th Main, Hsr Layout 2nd Sector, Bengaluru - 560102 have changed my name to Nitin Joshua Sahaya for all purposes.

I, POONAM Paritosh Ambekar, D/o Late Arvind Padsalgi, r/at #C1, Owners Court Layout, Kasavanahalli, Bengaluru 560035 have changed my name as Laxmi Ambekar vide affidavit dtd 19.06.2025 sworn before Notary C.V.Earappa, Bluru

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANANT Laxman Naik, S/o John Rodrigues, aged about 63 years, presently residing at No.94/1, Spectrum above DTDC Courier, Behind Karnataka Bank, Infantry Road, Bengaluru-560001 have changed my name to Mariyan John Rodrigues vide affidavit dt. 18/06/2025 before Notary N.Narayanaswamy, Bangalore.

I , Arvind Sundaram S/O A Shanmuga Sundaram R/O # 1367, 25th B Cross, 25th Main, Hsr Layout Sector-2, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka 560102, Have Changed the Name of My Minor Daughter Namely Avantika (Aged 14 Year 06 Months) And She Shall Hereafter Be Known as Avantika Arvind for All Future Purposes.

I, SYAMLAL CHERUVELIL KRISHNAN S/o Krishnan Kalaparanjakunnel Achuthan R/o 375 2nd Floor Heights Layout Begur Bengaluru Karnataka – 560068 changed my minor Daughter's name from Jyothsnika Syam alias Jyothsnika Nisha Syam to JYOTHSNIKA SYAM aged 17 Years.

Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur
(Govt. Autonomous Institution)
Hydrabad Road, Raichur -584102 Phone /Fax-08532-238488/89
www.rims-raichur.karnataka.gov.in info@rims-raichur.com

No.RIMS/SUP/TEND/2025-26 Dated: 19.06.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for supply of Equipment to Trauma Care Centre of RGSSH (OPEC) Hosptial, RIMS Raichur under two cover bid system through KPPP Portal of Government of Karnataka.

Sl. No	Particulars	Tender No	Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)
1	Supply Installation & Commissioning of Neuro Electric OT Table To Trauma Care Centre of RGSSH, RIMS, Raichur	RIMS/SUP(RGSSH)/ TEND/EQP/138/2025-26/ CALL-2 (DME/2025-26/ IND1505)	70.80

1) Tender document may be downloaded from KPPP Portal of the Govt. of Karnataka from 20.06.2025, 2) Last Date for Queries on or before 27.06.2025 @ 05.00 PM, 3) Tender must be submitted online through KPPP Portal on or before 19.07.2025 upto 5.00 PM & 4)Technical bid will be opened on 21.07.2025 at 11.30 A.M.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ : 1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೆ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ / ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. 2) ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೊರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

Further information may be obtained from above office and from www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Director
DIP/RCR/190/KSMC&A/191/2025-26 **Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur**

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bengaluru-560009.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಗೃಮಂ/ಮು.ಆ/ಸ.ಪ್ರಕಾ/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.06.2025

Tender Notification

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for below mentioned works.

SL No	Name of Work	Work Indent & IFT No	Amount put to Tender in Rs.	Last Date for Submission of Bid
1	Construction of Government Law College at Kolar, Kolar district under SCP/ TSP and General fund.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent611 & IFT No.62/2025-26 Date:19.06.2025	5,14,84,606/-	03.07.2025 upto 4.00 PM
2	Construction of Government Law College First Grade College Building at Arasikere, Hassan District under 2023-24 Scheme.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent612 & IFT No.63/2025-26 Date:19.06.2025	1,13,19,341/-	
3	Construction of Multipurpose Hall for Government First Grade College Building at Sringeri in Chikkamagaluru District under SCP/TSP-2024-25 Scheme.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent613 & IFT No.64/2025-26 Date:19.06.2025	1,51,21,620/-	
4	Proposed Construction of classrooms & toilet for Government First Grade College building at Hosadurga in Chitradurga District under SCP/TSP 2024-25 scheme.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent614 & IFT No.65/2025-26 Date:19.06.2025	1,35,89,670/-	
5	Construction of classrooms & toilet, womens lounge laboratory, library/ auditorium for Government First Grade College building at Channagiri in Davanagere District under SCP/TSP 2024-25 scheme.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent615 & IFT No.66/2025-26 Date:19.06.2025	1,52,18,896/-	
6	Construction of New block/ Additional block to existing Frist Grade Government College at Bidar, Bidar District under SCP/TSP 2024-25 scheme.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent616 & IFT No.51/2025-26 Date:19.06.2025	1,51,85,273/-	

For further information, Contact below mentiond office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.
Telephone No: 080-22273511/ 080-22100077, Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/AAA/1367/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru**

Hockey players to get ₹25,000 per month pocket allowance

The amount will be given to 40 men and 40 women, nominated every month by Hockey India

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) sanctioned a pocket allowance of ₹25,000 to 80 hockey players in the national camp, following a request by the National Federation.

It will be given to 40 men and 40 women, who will be nominated every month by Hockey India.

The Union Sports Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, emphasised the importance of encouraging the hockey players and acknowledging their overall good performances in recent years.

The minister also explained the elaborate plans to tap talent across the country with the help of technology, to ensure that every talented player gets a chance to hone his or her skills and realise his or her potential.

Huge potential: Mandaviya says sporting talent in the country should be spotted and guided for India to progress. FILE PHOTO

"Talent identification is a key area. The Government will soon launch a dedicated mobile application as part of the National Talent Repository System (NSRS). Anyone can upload a clip of talented youngsters from their neighbourhood, school, or village, across a wide range of sports disciplines.

"The videos will be studied by the zonal talent selection committees under the Khelo India scheme. Deserving candidates will be taken into Khelo India centres and given training, sports science support, nutrition guidance and mentorship," said the minister.

Potential champions

The minister stressed that a vast country like India would have potential champions in big numbers, and such talent needed to be spotted and guided for it to become a sporting powerhouse.

'#Let's Move + 1, India!' to be the theme for Olympic Day run on June 23

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), in collaboration with Abhinav Bindra Foundation and Reliance Foundation, will celebrate the Olympic Day on June 23 across the country, with the theme *#Let's Move + 1, India!*

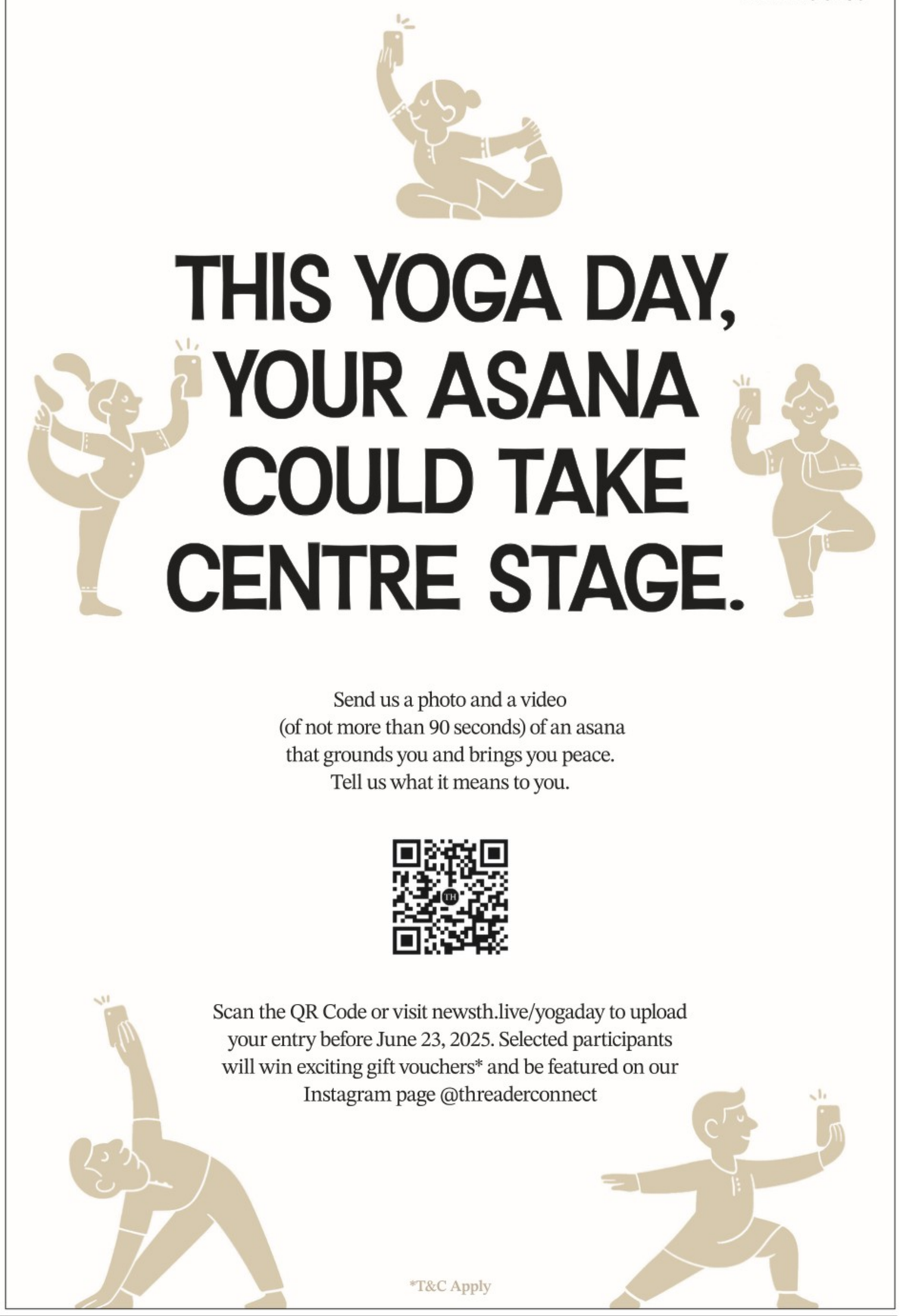
The theme highlights the joy and motivation of moving together, inviting peopleto experience the power of sport to boost both physical and mental health. The focus will be on the benefits of playing sport or working out with someone else, encouraging people to bring a friend, sibling, colleague, family member. As part of the celebration, 50 sports venues across the country will open their doors to the public for free, with paired sessions in football, padel, cricket, badminton and pickleball.

As part of the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP), schools across the nation can join the movement. Already, over 10 million children have had a positive experience through the OVEP in Chandigarh, Odisha and Assam, through the efforts of Abhinav Bindra Foundation.

"Through OVEP and the inaugural "Let's Move" campaign, we have witnessed how sport can inspire, uplift and empower the next generation. Let's Move + 1, carries this spirit forward, reminding us that sport is not just about physical strength, it is about fostering connection, mutual support and a shared sense of purpose," said Bindra.

"Sport has given me strength, taught me resilience and opened opportunities. It has shown me the value of having someone in your corner, to lift you up, to help you focus, to bring joy to the journey. That is why I am excited to invite young people to move with me, and share everything that sport brings," said archer Deepika Kumari.

THE HINDU GROUP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Send us a photo and a video
(of not more than 90 seconds) of an asana
that grounds you and brings you peace.
Tell us what it means to you.
Scan the QR Code or visit newsth.live/yogaday to upload
your entry before June 23, 2025. Selected participants
will win exciting gift vouchers* and be featured on our
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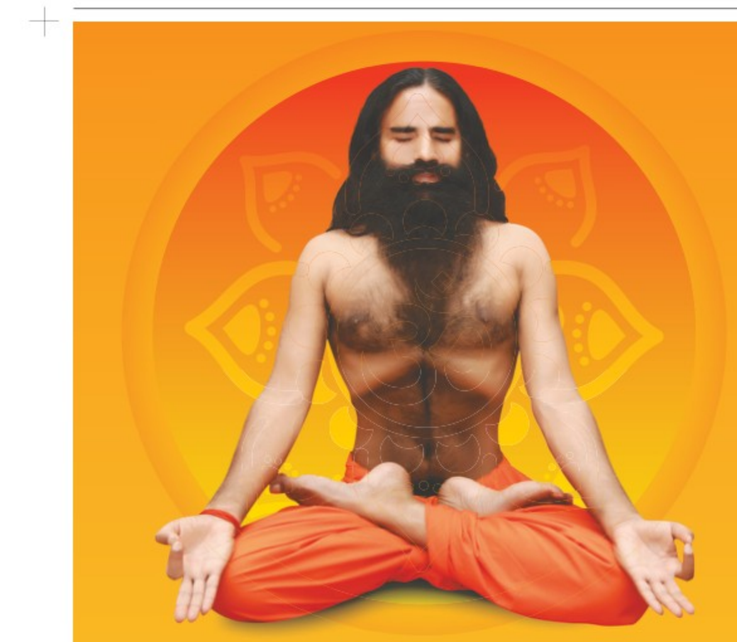

PATANJALI®

On the 11th International Yoga Day, take a pledge to build a healthy, prosperous and supremely glorious India

Worlds's biggest Yoga Guru
Connect direct with Yoga sage Swami Ramdev Maharaj to learn Yoga

आस्था LIVE — Everyday 5:30 am to 7:30 am and 8:00 pm
INDIA TV — Everyday morning at 7:56 am

Yoga-enriched India: The Clarion call of Swami Ramdev ji

On this International Yoga Day, let us pledge to become Yog-vratis and Swadeshi-vratis under the leadership of Swami Ji and build a healthy, prosperous, capable, united and supremely glorious India. Through Patanjali, the Yoga, Ayurveda and Swadeshi have, over the last three decades, shown the path of freedom from disease and addiction, besides spiritual awakening to more than 200 crore people across 200 countries in the world. This not only saved zillions of rupees, but also laid the foundation of a spiritual, and Sanatan way of life.

'God of Awakening'

Crores of people, including the country's top saints and seers, regard Swami Ji Maharaj as the "God of Awakening" who travelled more than 25 lakh kilometers across the country to impart Yoga training to more than 10 crore people, and prepared more than one crore devoted volunteers who offer selfless and desireless service to the humanity. These trained Yogi brothers and sisters of Patanjali are spreading the message of health and awareness among the people through more than one lakh yoga camps and regular yoga classes in every village, city, street and locality of the country. This revolution of rising early in the morning and practising yoga is guiding India towards a new direction.

Campaign for selfless human welfare Patanjali has been offering a voluminous service in the fields of Yoga, Ayurveda and Swadeshi through more than 10,000 Patanjali centres and 2,500 qualified and trained Vaidyas spread all over the country. If we evaluate it in economic terms, this contribution amounts to more than one lakh crore rupees towards nation building. Every project of Patanjali is dedicated to the service of Mother India.

Prosperity from Swadeshi: Prosperity for Charity According to a survey of Oxfam Global (UK) and other agencies, between 1765 and 1900, invading foreign companies looted from India valuable worth more than 100 trillion dollars, and this plunder continue even today. Swami ji is determined to stop this loot through Swadeshi movement while helping make India an economic superpower. "Prosperity for Charity": Patanjali has invested, is investing and will continue to invest 100% of its profits in the selfless service of Mother India.

Freedom from Macaulay education system through Bharatiya Shiksha Board To free India from Macaulay education system which was brought into practice by Britishers after 1835, institutions like Patanjali Gurukulam and Acharyakulam are preparing children with the strong personality, character and leadership qualities under the guidance of Bharatiya Shiksha Board. Further, by affiliating lakhs of schools with the Bharatiya Shiksha Board, we are building a new India. Educate your children in Patanjali Gurukulam, Acharyakulam, Patanjali Vishwavidyalaya and play your role in the great yajna of nation building.

Health Revolution: Healthy India World-class integrated treatment centres like Patanjali Wellness, Yoggram and Niramayam have been established with scientific research based on the traditional knowledge coming from great sages like Charak, Sushruta, Dhanvantari and Patanjali. Crores of people are becoming healthy and fit through these centres. Swamiji's appeal is that every person should do yoga himself and encourage ten others to do yoga. If even 1% of the aware people do yoga in the morning and adopt the Sanatan way of life ordained by yoga, then India's health budget could one day be reduced to zero.

Research and Solutions: A confluence of science and tradition More than 500 scientists at Patanjali have developed evidence-based medicines after years of research, for diseases of liver, kidney, heart, brain and respiratory system. More than 5,000 research protocols and research papers by our scientists have been published in more than 500 international journals. It has done a great job of getting Ayurveda recgonized globally as a research and evidence-based system of medicines.

Yogadharma must now become Yugdharma: Sanatan is the only solution Today Yoga and Sanatan Dharma are the need of the world. Through Yoga and Sanatan values, Patanjali is giving a new direction to the world that is struggling with stress, diseases, social and cultural degradation. **Come, adopt the Sanatan way of life based on Yogadharma.**

Clarion Call for five great revolutions Patanjali is striving to make India economic and spiritual power while liberating it from educational, medical, economic and cultural slavery. Patanjali is nurturing more than one lakh cows and is working on a big action plan to save cows.

Use Patanjali's pure and satvik products,
Save your children and family from the poison of adulteration.